Mal Berisha

SIR NOEL MALCOLM'S

A L B A N I A N A D A

GRATITUDE IS THE PARAMETER OF HUMAN NOBILITY

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Composed from three of his works on Albanian History:

KOSOVO - A SHORT HISTORY
AGENTS OF EMPIRE
ALBANIANS, REBELS, BELIEVERS, SURVIVORS

The full text of all spoken and written material in the documentary film series, titled:

GRATITUDE IS THE PARAMETER OF HUMAN NOBILITY

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Sir Noel Malcom, All Souls College, University of Oxford

A few words by the author

From 2012 to 2015, I had the rare honour and privilege of serving as the Ambassador of the Republic of Albania to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. During that period, I had the opportunity to meet one of the most prominent historians of our time and the most distinguished among those who have written about the history of Albanians. This was Sir Noel Malcolm, of All Souls College in Oxford, England.
After reading and studying his works, which were published before I went to London, Kosova – A Short History, during my time there, Agents of Empire, and after I completed my duty, Rebels, Believers, Survivors, I endeavoured to find ways to make more widely known the truths about Albanians that Sir Noel Malcolm has conveyed in the 1,600 pages of his books.

I believed the best way to do this was to produce a documentary film featuring considerations and opinions from eminent scholars and experts regarding his work.
Producing the film required extensive effort, travel, and collaboration over the course of two years. Finally, we may introduce this documentary series in three episodes, entitled "Gratitude is the Parameter of Human Nobility."

Alongside the film, I also thought it would be valuable to publish the full text of interviews with twenty-three scientific experts who have shared their thoughts on Sir Noel Malcolm's work on Albania and on Noel himself.

Retrospective

Throughout my childhood, youth, maturity, and adulthood, concern for the fate of Kosova and love for that beautiful part of our country were intertwined with the most important aspects of my life. The experiences and emotions of a person born on the edge of the political border, in Malesia e Gjakovës, between common Albanian ethnic lands, left profound imprints in my human consciousness.

In my early years, I grew accustomed to hearing daily discussions about Kosova in my home, discussions about distinguished individuals, friendships with families from the Gjakova and Dukagjin region, and songs about figures like Azem Bejta and Isa Boletini. Later, when my family relocated from our hometown, we encountered Kosovar residents in Mamurras. We referred to them as Kosovars, even though some hailed from other Albanian lands outside the border, such as Vuthajt, Plava e Gucia, Ulqini, Tetova, and Dibra e Madhe. To us, they were all "Kosovars."

Getting to know these individuals, spending time with them, and absorbing their knowledge about the daily happenings in Kosova, about which they were far more

informed than we were, heightened my awareness and concern for the fate of this Albanian homeland. From them I learned about the Tivar Massacre, the crimes of Ranković, the "Arms Action," the events of 1968, student demonstrations, the 1974 constitution, the 1981 demonstrations, and the tragic fate of many participants. I also learned about the Gathering in Gazimestan in June 1989, the annulment of Kosova's autonomy, Vaso Čubrilović's infamous essay "Deportation of Albanians" in the Serbian club of Sarajevo in 1937, and many other noteworthy events.

Several Kosovar boys and girls, or more accurately, Albanians from the other side of the border, came to live in Albania. They were deeply concerned, not only about Kosova but also about their own fate since the communist regime would occasionally arrest them for absurd reasons, extinguishing their dream of living freely in the "motherland" Albania.

In 1992, I had the great honour and privilege to represent Albania at the Consulate General of the Republic of Albania in Istanbul. On the day before I departed for Istanbul, I met with the head of the Albanian state, President Prof. Dr. Sali Berisha, who provided me with important advice for my new role. He told me, "You are new to this task; Turkey is our friend country. You have received technical guidance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but I have an even more important task for you: Take care of Kosova and the Kosovars. They often travel to Istanbul, and from there, they can contribute significantly to the solution of the Kosova issue!" This directive became my guiding principle throughout my five years at the consulate, as I focused on exceptional care for Kosova.

During my time in Istanbul, I had the opportunity to meet the Prime Minister of Kosova in exile, ministers who would later become prime ministers, professors at the University of Prishtina, young individuals who would grow into senior politicians in Pristina, historians, artists, writers, doctors, and more.

In 1998, I decided to move to the USA privately. There, I dedicated myself wholeheartedly to the liberation of Kosova under the auspices of the Albanian-American Civic League, led by the former American congressman of Arbëreshi origin, Hon. Joseph DioGuardi, and the Pan-Albanian Federation of America VATRA, directed by engineer Agim Karagjozi.

Thereafter, I spent nine years working in Kosova as a member of the United Nations staff (UNMIK). This time was unforgettable, as my decades-long dreams became a reality in a free, democratic, and finally, independent Kosova.

As a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, I had the honour and pleasure of being present in the hall of the International Court of Justice in The Hague on July 22, 2010, where Kosova's legal right to be an independent state was legitimized.

Afterward, I began my work at the Embassy of the Republic of Albania in the United Kingdom on February 17, 2012, coinciding with the fourth anniversary of Kosova's declaration of independence.

Meeting Sir Noel Malcolm

My new position as an Ambassador of Albania to the Court of St. James's in London offered me the golden opportunity to meet influential figures in Great Britain who had made extraordinary contributions to Kosova's freedom and the strengthening of Albanian-British relations. Among them were lords, parliamentarians, diplomats, British administration officials, intellectuals, historians, scholars, writers, poets, and many others, members of Anglo Albanian Association.

Notably, I singled out individuals such as Lords George Robertson, Michael Bates, Robert MacLennan, Alan Watson, Stuart Peach, Baron of Etchingham Lord Charles Moore, as well as parliamentarians like Mark Prichard, Karen Buck, Adam Halloway, Edward McMillan. Additionally, there were intellectuals such as Dr. Melanie McDonough, Harry Eyres, and Simon Schama, among many others.

One of the individuals who left an unforgettable impression on me, the one who loved Kosova selflessly without any political or economic interests—and never expected anything in return—was the Oxford professor Sir Noel Malcolm. Getting to know him has been a blessing that I will carry with me throughout my life. The positive impact of his work *Kosova - A Short History,* on the resolution of Kosova issue. was immense.
Subsequent encounters with Sir Noel Malcolm's other works dedicated to the Albanians led me to recognize the significance of his contributions to the Albanian cause and his revelation of historical truths that might otherwise remain undiscovered by the world forever. These truths, as found in his books *Agents of Empire* and *Rebels, Believers, Survivors* deserved the utmost acknowledgment that an Albanian could bestow. This sentiment was magnified by my role as the representative of our nation in a place of such profound importance to our national history.

Moreover, the fact that Sir Noel Malcolm serves as the president of the "Anglo-Albanian Association," an organization with a history paralleling that of our Albanian state, further underscored the significance of our connection.

Why the film?
Convinced of the extraordinary value of Sir Noel Malcolm's work for Albanians, I believed that producing a documentary film about his life and work, narrated by distinguished figures from Britain, Albania and Kosova, was an obligation and an expression of gratitude for his contributions. Such a documentary would also serve to strengthen our nation's relations with the United Kingdom.

Therefore, alongside this documentary film, we are providing this book, which contains transcribed and translated interviews in both Albanian and English. Through this book and the accompanying documentary, I aim to offer viewers and readers the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the scholarly and human aspects of Sir Noel Malcolm's personality, as illuminated by the insights shared by the participants in the film.

Acknowledgement

First, I want to thank Sir Noel Malcolm for the interviews given to me regarding his work dedicated to Albanians. I thank the well-known researcher, Bejtullah Destani, for the generous advice he gave me throughout the process. I thank my friend Dr. Ahmet Ulaj, without whose help and support this film and this book would not have been made possible. I also thank the video editor Altin Çelmeta and the team of camera operators of A2 CNN Exclusive. My thanks go to my friends, the well-known writer Besnik Mustafaj, Professor Bardhyl Musaj and the Albanian – Irish writer, Ndrekë Gjini, the well-known Kosovar film documentarist Fatmir Lamaj as well as to two of my American – Albanian friends, Mrs. Nikki Doçi and David Hosaflook. A thank you goes to all the interviewees who became part of this venture from London, Cambridge, Oxford, Pristina, Tirana. I also thank all my friends who became part of this project, some of them filming, others correcting, others editing the film and the spoken and written material. Their names are at the end of the text of this book. And finally, I thank my family, my wife Donika, for their patience, understanding and unstinting help so that I was "free" to deal with this noble project.

Mal Berisha

Besnik Mustafaj

Writer, former Ambassador and Foreign Minister of the Republic of Albania

Introduction

This is a *sui generis* publication. It is dedicated to the British historian Sir Noel Malcolm. It does not, however, resemble a biography in any way. Sir Noel Malcolm already has a very extensive and multidisciplinary opus, accepted and highly regarded not only by academic and scholarly circles, but also by a wide readership in English and in the dozens of languages into which he has been translated. Three of his works focus on Albanians and their history. They are: *Kosova, a Short History*, *Agents of Empire*, and *Albanians, Rebels, Believers, Survivors*. All three are valuable, and have been translated and published in Albanian. This publication focuses on these three works. However, it is neither a critical examination of the truths and facts brought forward by the author, nor of the conclusions he reaches within his methods of evaluating evidence.

Said in a more proper way, this publication is the script of a documentary film in three episodes, produced by Ambassador Mal Berisha and dedicated to Sir Noel Malcolm. It includes a meticulously chosen text, written by the author in the role of the film's narrator, through various interviews with the protagonist of the work, as well the testimonies of many British and Albanian personalities. It must be noted that those who are interviewed are not all friends of Noel Malcolm in the truest sense of that word. Undoubtedly, however, they are familiar with him, and most of them are familiar with him precisely because of his extraordinary work as a historian and scholar work that led Dr. David Shankland, director of the Royal Anthropological Institute in London, to state that among his contemporaries, Malcolm is the closest to a genius in modern historical studies. I do not see exaggeration in Dr. David Shankland's praise, noting that other interviewed participants gave the same estimation in one form or another. It is a conclusion which they reach due to the wide acceptance of Sir Noel Malcolm's great work, and also the personal knowledge sometimes more and sometime less of his personality as a human being.

Just like the documentary film, this publication is addressed primarily to the Albanian public. Hence, from the outset the author Mal Berisha highlighted the three works that Sir Noel Malcolm has devoted to the Albanians and their history. In his introduction, written specifically for this publication, Ambassador Mal Berisha found it imperative to address the question of what motivated him to create this documentary film:

"Recognizing the immense significance of Sir Noel Malcolm's contributions to us, the Albanians, I was convinced that creating a documentary film about his life and work, featuring prominent figures from the British, Albanian, Albanian-British, or British-Albanian spheres, were both a duty and heartfelt expression of gratitude for his invaluable work. Furthermore, I thought that a documentary film of this kind would also contribute to enhancing our nation's relations with the United Kingdom."

Gratitude is a prominent virtue in the character of the Albanians. In this case, I believe that any gratitude is enhanced based on who communicates it.

Mal Berisha has established a good name in Albanian diplomacy. His experience in the foreign service, especially his time spent overseeing Albania's relations with the United Kingdom, arms him with the ability to express his gratitude towards Sir Noel Malcolm not merely with noble emotion, but also with a broad diplomatic perspective. In this context, the gratitude of Mal Berisha is a wholly logical conclusion, founded on numerous significant facts, when someone observes how a book like *Kosova, A Short History*, for example, played a pivotal role in influencing the engagement of today's democratic world and addressing of the critical issue of Kosova, ultimately contributing to its liberation and independence. As one of the readers of the manuscript, I am firmly convinced that in this instance, Ambassador Mal Berisha conveys the profound gratitude of an entire nation to Sir Noel Malcolm in the truest sense of the word.

It appears as a divine miracle, or at least very difficult to believe, that a book, in this case *Kosova, A Short History*, has wielded such a decisive influence in altering the stance of political establishments for major democratic powers, regarding the fate of the people of Kosova.

Mal Berisha has chosen individuals with strong personalities who, by affirming this fact, provide him with unequivocal support. However, even that, perhaps, might not suffice to persuade the public that this occurred a quarter of a century ago. Berisha, as author, takes this risk into account. He does not attempt to recapitulate the facts and arguments presented by Sir Noel Malcolm in his work to demonstrate that he has brought historical truths to light. Mal Berisha is careful to sketch the historian's profile. He draws from wisdom gleaned from the elders of his birthplace, who believed that while the truth holds significance, the individual delivering it is equally vital. Hence, we also discern certain moral and intellectual traits within Sir Noel Malcolm's character, related to the motivations that compelled him to embark on the extremely difficult undertaking of shedding light on the history of Albanians.

In short, from this publication and the documentary film that precedes it, we come to understand that Sir Noel Malcolm possesses a natural inclination towards romanticism, a quality that has consistently driven him to passionately dedicate himself to truths that have been forgotten, overlooked, or, even worse, manipulated by historiography and sinister politics, with profound consequences for the peoples or human communities who bear these truths. Such is undoubtedly the case of Albanians in general, and of Kosova's Albanians in particular. Through a series of significant works, Sir Noel Malcolm had already demonstrated unwavering integrity before the British public and

the world. The pursuit of truth was consistently a sacred commitment for him, one from which he would not compromise for any reason. Sir Noel Malcolm is also a man characterized by a keen sense of curiosity. This is evidenced is also by the fact that Albanian is among the 23 foreign languages he has learned. Naturally, this would further facilitate his research in the archives. The continuation of his writing would involve issues of methodology, determination, and analytical ability, all of which he possessed in abundance. To summarize, the truth about the Albanians, their roots and branches, which he has conveyed in some 1600 published pages, would become a trustworthy basis for both politicians and the general public, not only due to its accuracy, but also because it came from the pen of Sir Noel Malcolm.

In conclusion, I would like to highlight another aspect which I believe is important to remember. Given the established fact that *Kosova: A Short History* exerted a significant influence on the decisions taken by the Euro-Atlantic democratic powers during 1998-2007, concerning Kosova's destiny, we, the Albanians as a whole, should be motivated to critically re-evaluate a stereotype deeply ingrained in both our folklore and official historiography, as well as in our collective national memory. It is about the stereotype, according to which, during our clashes for survival, the great powers of the times supported our predatory neighbours because of their *a priori* anti-Albanian spirit. The impact of Sir Noel Malcolm's book on the decisions made in London, Washington, Brussels, Paris, or Berlin during the aforementioned period serves as a reminder that the actions and biases of these powers are often the consequence of their lack of awareness about the truth regarding the Albanians in these capitals. A thorough critical examination of this stereotype would help liberate us from the burdensome victim complex.

FIRST EPISODE

SIR NOEL MALCOLM'S ACADEMIC LIFE
Prior to get involved in the Albanian studies

1.- Narrator: Mal Berisha

Dear viewers!

Despite the difficulties and even countless tragedies that our Albanian nation has experienced, it must still be said that we have been fortunate, as we have always had world-renowned people and personalities by our side.

They have noticed in us and then described the highest virtues of our people, tradition, *besa* (pledge of honour), culture, history and what have left behind with our footprints in the universal heritage of humanity.

After that, some of them fell in love with our country, with our nature, with our people, and then they committed themselves to making us known to other nations, peoples, and languages of the world.

I am delighted that in the capacity of (former) Ambassador of the Republic of Albania to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, I had the opportunity to get to know, cooperate, and contribute to the recognition of the works of some of them in relation to our Albanian nation.

There are around fifty British writers, so many travellers' poets, lords, some of whom later became prime ministers, chief architects, artists, painters, historians, chroniclers, poets, painters, travellers who have visited the Albanian lands, from the sixteenth century until today.

It is difficult to summarize in documentary film the impact they had by making the Albanian people known in the Western world, especially in the English-speaking world.

Nevertheless, gratitude for them is infinite, and should never fade away.

Such is one of the most modern thinkers of our time, a philosopher, writer, and historian.

The gratitude for this distinguished English personality is endless.

Who is Sir Noel Malcolm and what has he done for us, the Albanians?

2. – Who is Sir Noel Malcolm?

The distinguished English historian, journalist, and philosopher, Sir Noel Malcolm, was born in 1956.

He studied English History and Literature at the University of Cambridge, where he successfully defended his doctoral thesis on the work of the seventeenth-century English philosopher, Thomas Hobbes.

He began his career as a fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.

He was then engaged as a political analyst and afterwards as an external editor of *The Spectator* magazine, and subsequently as chief political reporter of *The Daily Telegraph* newspaper.

In 1996 Noel Malcolm lectured at St. Antony's College, in Oxford, while in 1999 he taught at Harvard University in Massachusetts, in the United States of America.

In 2001 Noel Malcolm started to work at All Souls College, Oxford.

He is a member of the British Academy of Sciences, an honorary fellow of Peterhouse, in Cambridge, and of Trinity, Gonville, and Caius Colleges.

Noel Malcolm is a foreign member of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of the Republic of Kosova, and an honorary member of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of the Republic of Albania.

In 2014, Queen Elizabeth II knighted him with the high title of SIR. He is holder of the "Prizren League" Gold Medal as well as the Medallion of "Gjergj Kastrioti Skënderbeu" awarded by the Presidents of the Republic of Kosova and the Republic of Albania.

Sir Noel Malcolm is also President of the ANGLO-ALBANIAN ASSOCIATION in London.

That association has its own origin at s origin at the Committee to Rescue Albania, founded in 1912, by colonel Aubrey Herbert, the greatest friend of Albanians, the English diplomat, politician, military man, researcher, and parliamentarian, the champion of efforts for the right of Albania to become an independent state.

Later, in 1918, this committee, under the direction of Herbert, became the Anglo-Albanian Association, with the participation of Edith Durham.

The association is active to this day, in London.

Among others, Malcolm is the author of the following books:

• *George Enescu: His Life and Music*

• *Dei Dominis (1560–1624): Venetian, Anglican, Ecumenist and Relapsed Heretic*

• *Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan*

• *The Origin of the English Nonsense*

• *Aspects of Hobbes*

• *John Pell and his Correspondence with Sir Charles Cavendish*

• *Reason of State, Propaganda, and the Thirty Years' War*

• *Bosnia: A Short History*

• *Useful Enemies: Islam and the Ottoman Empire in Western Political Thought, 1450–1750*

Three of his main works dedicated to the Albanian nation are:

• *Kosova: A Short History*

• *Agents of Empire: Knights, Corsairs, Jesuits, and Spies in the Sixteenth Century Mediterranean World*

• *Rebels, Believers, Survivors: Studies in the History of the Albanians*

The Albanian nation is grateful to this distinguished English historian for his contribution to the history of the Albanians.

3.- Lord Charles Moore

Well, I first met Noel Malcolm more than 50 years ago in 1969, when we were both taking the scholarship to Eton. We were both 12 years old, and as I stood outside the exam hall and afterwards, we fell into conversation and he was a very, very small boy, even smaller than I was.

He said to me, “I’ve enjoyed the question about art because I'm a great fan of Monet and paintings of Monet.” He immediately wanted to talk about the paintings of Monet, which was quite unusual for a 12-year-old boy.
He and I, both got scholarships to Eton. So, we were in the same house there, and we've been friends ever since.
My first impression of Noel is the same as my last impression, which is that he's a person of extraordinary intellectual brilliance, and of a very wide range of gifts. So, he's not only a man of tremendous intellect but he is very well read, he speaks very well, he's an extremely good musician, and very knowledgeable about music.
One day, we both came back from the holidays, and I thought to myself: “Well Noel has all these talents, but he can't paint or draw.” But we came back from the holidays, and I said:
"What were you doing?" He said: “Oh I was in France, and I was sketching these abbeys in Normandy." There was his sketchbook full of lovely drawings of these medieval buildings. I realized he could do that as well. He was even rather good at sport, and so we continued to be friends.
We went to Cambridge together as well, and we were in different colleges, and when Noel applied for the college that he went to, at Cambridge Peterhouse, he was interviewed by Maurice Cowling, who's a very famous historian and political historian, a historian of thoughts. Maurice Cowling liked to challenge the people he was interviewing, and so he said to Noel, who was very, very young to be interviewed for Cambridge—I think he was only 16—he sorts of leaned back in his chair and he said:
“You think you're good, don't you?”
And Noel said:
“Do you mean morally or intellectually?”
Morris Cowling thought that was a clever way of turning the question and Noel got the scholarship to Peterhouse and continued there.

4.- Harry Eyres

We were at school together. This was at Eton College. We were both kings’ scholars. He was ahead of me. But I remember him very well.
We were only 70 of us who lived together in the old buildings at Easton, and yes Noel was somebody you wouldn't forget, and we were all in awe of his intellect even then. He definitely stood out. This was a community of scholars, but he was exceptional even then. I have other memories of him too, even playing football. He loved running up the left wing. I still remember on the football field.
Also, he's an accomplished musician as you know. Of course, he's written a fine book about George Enescu, and he played the piano.
I remember listening to him playing Chopin, I was very impressed.

I played the piano too but not as well as him.
He stood out as someone quite exceptional as a scholar as a human being, as well.

5. – Prof. David Abulafia

Noel Malcolm was a very bright student at Cambridge just a few years after I became a fellow of this college in Cambridge. He was interviewed by a very famous political philosopher called Michael Oakeshott, and I witnessed this interview. I was on the college council which was going to make the choice whether to choose him. And it was a *tour de force*, his performance. Anyway, we chose him immediately, we offered him this fellowship of the college, and so he came here, and he was a very great success. He published a book about Dei Dominis a Croatian intellectual in the 17th-18th centuries and he also published a book about Enescu, a Romanian musician, so this already shows you the extraordinary range of his interests at that particular time.

6.- Alda Dizdari

My acquaintance with Sir Noel Malcolm is closely tied to the Romanian composer George Enescu. In 2008, I made my debut at the prestigious Wigmore Hall in London and one of the pieces in the program was "Sonata for violin and piano No.3," in the Romanian folk character of George Enescu. I did not know that Sir Noel Malcolm was in the audience that night. After the concert, he came to congratulate me and spoke in perfect Albanian, with a northern accent, in Gheg, and at that moment, that strong connection was made, where I amazed, because he was Sir Noel Malcolm, who had written the most important book on the life and work of the great Romanian composer, conductor, and educator George Enescu. This book is so important to the British world that in every concert program where George Enescu's music is played, there are always quotes or paragraphs, or thoughts, or details from the book written by Sir Noel Malcolm. This shows that his knowledge of the work of this twentieth-century giant is extraordinarily deep, extraordinarily detailed, and I can state, as I now consider Sir Noel Malcolm a friend, that he is not only a connoisseur of the music of George Enescu, but he is an extraordinary connoisseur of classical music. He himself has played the viola and is passionate about classical music, but he is, in my opinion, a great thinker, with an extraordinarily refined taste.

7.- Prof. David Abulafia

But his great ambition was to edit the greatest work of Thomas Hobbes, his *Leviathan*, the very important work of political philosophy of which many editions existed but they were not authoritative.

8. - Bejtullah Destani

It is a very rare case that in addition to the history of Bosnia, the history of Kosova, and the biography of a Croatian Catholic priest, who lived in the seventeenth century, Noel Malcolm is known as a world expert on Thomas Hobbes. For the letters of Thomas Hobbes, there are 1,200 pages of letters in two volumes, published by Oxford University Press, and he worked on it for almost 12 years.

All the letters were translated from Latin into English. They are letters which until now have never been published, only a few letters were known. But he has taken and translated all the letters and published them in a special volume. In addition to this, he has published another book *Aspects of Hobbes*. It is a kind of biography with a very modest title. According to British press reviewers and academic critics, he has done an extraordinary job, but he has given the book an extremely modest title. That is, *Aspects of Hobbes* is an almost perfect biography of the life and scholarly activity of the great English philosopher Thomas Hobbes.

After this, he has worked for almost 30 years for the entire work of Thomas Hobbes, which he has translated from Latin into English. There are four thousand pages. He has also written two other books on an English philosopher who was a mathematician and philosopher. With these, Hobbes' four thousand pages, which he again published by Oxford University Press, we may conclude that Noel Malcolm was one of the very rare persons in the history of the United Kingdom. He was given the title Sir Noel Malcolm for his work on the studies of Hobbes, the studies of Kosova and Bosnia, his contribution to journalism in the British press, and his contribution as a political commentator.

9.- Lord Charles Moore

Then, as the 1980s continued, I, by this time was editing *The Spectator* magazine and it was a major aspect of our coverage that we were very interested in Eastern Europe and Southern Europe and Central Europe and all those bits of Europe, that were dominated by part of the Soviet bloc, or were communist dictatorships because, of course, Albania had its special—I think, the story, the motto, the slogan, used to be "Albania and China, 700 million strong," which always amused me.

We were very keen at *The Spectator* in opening our readership to understand what was going on as the Cold War was being fought in places like Poland. Noel was very helpful about this in the first instance. I think the first country where he was really involved with this, as far as we were concerned at *The Spectator*, was Romania, where he taught himself Romanian. He knew a lot about Romania. He went to Romania under Ceausescu, and he wrote a biography of Enescu, the Romanian composer, and contributed considerably about this subject to us. At roughly the same time, I'm not getting the dates right, I asked Noel to become the political correspondent of *The Spectator*, which is not really a reporting role. It is an analytical role.

10. - Harry Eyres

So, he was actually a political journalist, and that I think is important, because although he is obviously an extremely eminent scholar—one of the most exceptional scholars in the last fifty or a hundred years, I'd say, quite exceptional—he's not *only* a scholar. He is someone who likes to write, I think, for the general reader, not just for the academic specialist, and he makes a point of saying that, I think, in his all these books, really. Some of these books were clearly written for the general reader.

So, it's a very unusual combination. Of course, he's an exceptional linguist, quite astonishing—that is obviously is a big part of what enables him to range so widely. But he is in fact, I think, a kind of polymath and that that word is bounded about; there are not very many true polymaths. But Noel is certainly one of them and we have already mentioned that book on Enescu they're not many scholars on so, of course he is best as the leading authority on Thomas Hobbes, but he has written on so many other things as well.

But beyond that, there is something else that strikes me about him, as I was reflecting: he has strong moral engagement often in what he writes, particularly on the Balkans. So, I think when he wrote these books about Bosnia and Kosova, he was fired not just by scholarship, he was fired by what was happening in that time, with terrible wars in the former Yugoslavia.

11.- Dr. Rudina Jasini

When I arrived at the University of Oxford to pursue initially the next level of master, I had the privilege of meeting Sir Noel Malcolm, as well as several other Albanian students, including those from Kosova.
In fact, there was even an association of Albanian students here, at the University of Oxford, and within the association's activities we have met several times.

It is not easy to capture in words and to shed light on the personality and the work of Sir Noel Malcolm. We are talking about an erudite, a scholar of international capacities and dimensions.

He is renowned not only for his work and academic research and the books he has written on Kosova, but also for broader Albanianism, as one may call it.

I think Noel Malcolm has extraordinary values as an international scholar.

As you may know, he is specialized, perhaps as the most authoritative, most renowned researcher regarding Thomas Hobbes. For all other activities, which seem to us like hobbies, because we have to do with an individual who speaks more than 23 foreign languages, and above all, he has an intellectual curiosity. So, if we were to ask what motivates Sir Noel Malcolm to research the issues of Albania, in terms of history, journalism, linguistics, what really makes us think is: Why Albania? While it is a privilege for us, the reason is because he has this intellectual curiosity which seems to stimulate something related to the Albanian identity.

12.-Prof. David Abulafia

He edited the letters of Thomas Hobbs; he edited translation by Hobbs of the great Greek historian Thucydides, which was very interesting just to see how Hobbes reacted to one of the great texts of the history of Greek politics, in antiquity. So, he was doing a great many extremely valuable tasks at this time. And this was recognized, I think, in about 2001 by his election as a fellow of the British Academy, which for an academic is one of the highest honours that one can have in this country and the National Academy for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

13. – Prof. Rexhep Ismajli

Noel Malcolm has been present in the Balkans with his well-known works that he published at the time of the crisis. The book on Bosnia, which was the book that played

an important role for the fate of Bosnia, and the book on Kosova, which was also a book that was published at just the right moment, on a very acute international issue, in the whole world at the time, especially in Europe, about an issue that was very crucial for us.
We were at the height of the crisis; the war had already begun. There was a huge campaign to expel the population, etc.
And of course, after the war in 2004, we elected him as a Foreign Member of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosova, with complete unanimity, with the highest possible appreciation because he wrote a book in which he didn't need to take anybody's side, neither ours nor the Serbs.
But he revealed a historical reality and has done so at a time when it was greatly needed. I want to say that the book's greatest quality is its documentation, which is very well documented.

14.- Prof. Lea Ypi

My first meeting with Noel was strange and interesting, because I knew about the work of someone named Noel Malcolm, an extraordinary scholar of Hobbes of whom I had read different articles regarding the theory of modern state, the relationship between Hobbes and Spinoza, sovereignty issues, and I had heard about Noel Malcolm as one of the most prominent exponents of modern philosophical history studies.

I also had heard about a Noel Malcolm who wrote about Kosova, about Bosnia, who was interested in the Albanian issue, etc., and until the day I met Noel, I did not know that this was one and the same person.

I remember my first meeting with Noel was when I went to Oxford to start a post-doctorate after completing my doctoral studies in Italy and transferred to Oxford. There, I received an email from Noel Malcolm saying "I heard that you are an Albanian doing a post-doctorate at the College in Oxford. I am also at Oxford."

With the modesty that characterizes Noel, he was introducing himself, while of course, I knew his work and in fact knew the works of these "two Noels". We connected, met, and that meeting was very important for me, even personally, as he introduced me to friends, who became very important to me later in my life in England.

It was extraordinary for me when I discovered that the Noel Malcolm who studied Hobbes and for whom I had unlimited admiration and the Noel Malcolm who wrote about Albania, who wrote the History of Kosova, were one and the same person. Because it seemed to me that my mind could not grasp how it was possible for one person to write with so much care, detail, depth, and erudition about such varied issues.

Usually, modern philosophers who deal with Hobbes, deal only with Hobbes throughout their lives. And in England, there are very important Hobbes scholars who have only one of those pillars for their research. And for me, it was extraordinary how this one person could be both. And then when I met Noel, it was even more extraordinary because Noel is such a modest, careful, and reserved person about his work that I only asked him to understand how it was possible and how these two were related.

15. - Robert Wilton

For me, the aspect that touches me the most powerfully is a kind of paradox in his character or in his image as an academic figure. I know him as a giant, as a giant among scholars not only of the Balkans but also of the Middle Ages. He has achieved academic heights according to world standards.
However, he has an aspect, a great vision, but at the same time I have had the pleasure of getting to know him—I do not claim to know him closely, but we have met several times.
He is a person with so much courtesy, gentleness, politeness, very cultured, very calm, very attractive. Even his intellectual greatness contrasts entirely with his personal character, so easy-going, so civilized.
I was expecting a very arrogant, very conceited figure. He is quite the opposite.
With every element of greatness, he has become even more courteous, humble. He is above all a civilized man.
So even when I had the opportunity to meet him for the first time, this touched me the most.

16.- Dr. Daut Dauti

The role of Malcolm is great in all aspects, considering that he has long exercised influence as a columnist with his articles in the *The Spectator*, *Daily Telegraph*, etc. However, we particularly remember Noel for his correct standing during the war, with his appearances on British television here and even with articles throughout the British, American, and Anglophone press.

That is, his role has been very important and fortunately, it still is, so his influence continues to operate, and this has not only changed the Albanian issue and British foreign policy, but I believe that it has brought about a change in the Balkans, in general, because Noel Malcolm is also the author of the book on the history of Bosnia. Thus, he is known for having brought about a change, a true mirror of the past of the Balkan peoples. He has written about the history of Albanians and Bosnians in his two books, but when he speaks of Albanians and Bosnians in the Balkans, he also speaks of Serbs,

Greeks, and other peoples. So, in short, I mean to say that his role in history is extraordinarily significant because he has brought about important and objective changes.

17.- Prof. David Abulafia

The range of languages that he does use is something that we would all envy, I mean Albanian, Romanian, and so on, alongside obviously the languages of Western Europe, which play an enormous role in that book, as well. This is someone who has the very necessary skill with languages which has always been a barrier against the study of that part of the world. The fact that scholars in the West, I mean, apart from the school of East European studies, which is part of London University, there's very little expertise in this country in the languages of Eastern Europe, as we discovered with the fall of communism. And we found that an enormous number of countries from Estonia right down to Albania where there just weren't really scholars able to use these languages. In that sense, Noel is quite exceptional.

18.- Dr. Melanie McDonagh

Can I just say that as a linguist he was able to cut through all the impediments that come between normal journalists and the people they are writing about. So, a normal journalist going to a country where he doesn't speak language it doesn't know other people has to have a fixer, he's got to have a translator, he's got to have a driver. All these things. Noel can speak directly to the people he's talking about and talking to.

And without that language barrier you get a much more intelligible and truthful account from the people that you meet. And his linguistic breadth is extraordinary. I really don't know how many languages he speaks especially now that in former Yugoslavia you've got about 5 languages for the use to be one in Serb-Croatian. I have seen him when we were in Albania speaking to Vllachs in a village.

I've never come across anybody who spoke in Vllach. in fact, I've never come across any Vllachs. But Noel was able to have a chat with them about the price of sheep or whatever the topic of conversation was, at the time. And it was wonderful to watch because they were delighted to meet somebody who could talk to them directly. He enjoyed talking to them. So, it does mean that what he writes got a very different aspect than somebody who is all the time working in translation and indeed so many of his books are written based on primary sources rather than secondary sources in English.

19.- Lord Charles Moore

His interest in the Balkans is very great and this partly comes from a wider interest or a wider ability, which is to learn languages. So, when he basically used to learn a language every year, when he was young and for all I know that may still be the case. He said that the way to learn the language was simply to read a book about the language and teach yourself it.

One of those "teach yourself books" and then you try to apply it. So, he even did that with Gaelic, you know, the language that they speak in the remote islands of Scotland, which is notoriously difficult. He did it with all sorts of much more mainstream languages, like Spanish or German or whatever.

Over the years, I think Noel probably can speak more than 20 languages.

20.- Bejtullah Destani

Noel carried out research in various European archives and had an extraordinary library, perhaps the richest private personal library I have ever seen that has books about history, not only for Albania, but also for the entire Balkans. Naturally, the primary focus was the history of the Albanians, of course, especially the history of Albania. There were extraordinary, rare, books that, in value, he had paid for one book, I remember a grammar book, he had paid nearly 5,000 pounds. There were original copies of Barleti, there was a book written by Bogdani. There was an extreme passion for old books, collected over many years. He had all the books of Edith Durham and Aubrey Herbert, and more. That means that the collaboration with Noel Malcolm was extremely professional. It was, in my opinion, a very great honour that I had that opportunity to collaborate with Noel Malcolm and help him as much as I could.

21.- Edith Harxhi

I became familiar with Professor Noel Malcolm and his writings during my time as a political science student at the University of Edinburgh.

At the time, Professor Malcolm, along with a group of other UK academics, were part of the British Helsinki Watch. It was an organization that was established right after the fall of the Iron Curtain.

This organization gave a lot of help to all Eastern countries, and at the same time wrote articles that encouraged the peoples of the East to revolt against the dictatorial yoke.

22- Harry Eyres

I do see Noel as in a way like quite a romantic figure, that he, I do not know the answer to this at all, but I assume that he must really love those regions, and he is obviously fascinated by Albania and everything to do with it.

And he has also travelled all over what used to be called Eastern Europe. I travelled with him once to Romania, to Transylvania, to visit the old Saxon churches which are extraordinary examples of medieval architecture in these Saxon villages, which are somewhat under threat. Noel was involved in an organization which was trying to save the architecture there. But, of course, he speaks Romanian, he speaks all these languages, and he told me he had learned Hungarian—which is a notoriously difficult language—in about two months or something. It was quite extraordinary. But I assume that he just rather loves that part of the world and that he's not the first certainly romantic English person to sort of fall in love with the Balkans.

There have been others too, or to give part of their lives to that, including, I might add, although this might sound presumptuous or vain, my great grandfather Sir Harry Charles Augustus, as after whom I was named, who was British Ambassador to Albania in the 1920s.

And he was obviously also deeply concerned and interested in that country. And I think it was one of those people who hoped to bring Albania to a more sort of prosperous and modern future.

23.- Prof. David Abulafia

I think it's no doubt he's one of the most distinguished historians in this country.

24. - Dr. David Shankland

In short, I think Noel is the closest to a genius in modern historical studies at this moment. He is a fantastic scholar and I have always been absolutely delighted that I've made this personal acquaintance.

His ability as a historian is remarkable not only because for his great fluency in many different languages, but also because when he gets to investigate a piece of history, he always goes to the archives, he always tries to work out what the facts are. You know it is fashionable in these days to say sometimes that facts do not exist. Of course, this is nonsense, of course facts exist. And so, Noel is absolutely marvellous in working out what it is to be accurately the case. What really happened? Who lived there? What did they do? What events took place? It is in this area that he is so absolutely marvellous. And then he puts these different facts together in a narrative which is thoroughly

convincing, for example his book *Kosova: A Short History* is a brilliant example of how this can be done, a book which is deservedly famous.

25. - Mal Berisha

We close the first episode of this series of documentaries dedicated to Sir Noel Malcolm with the words of the famous researcher Dr. David Shankland, Director of the Institute of Anthropology in Great Britain.

He has just said that Sir Noel Malcolm is the closest to a genius, and indeed we regard him as such, not only for his extraordinary work which he has written on the English philosophers, for such works that require scholars of the rank of Harvard, Oxford and Cambridge, but with the work he has done on the Albanians, which is *Kosova: A Short History*.

This work, in fact, is based on very authentic documents, and brings before us, not only the events of the end of the 20th century, or the beginning of the 21st century, but more than that, it brings the efforts that the Albanian nation has done to survive and be saved not only from the Turkish yoke, but also from the greed of the neighbours who, supported by the great powers of the time, were ready to tear Albania apart and turn it into a battlefield of other powers.

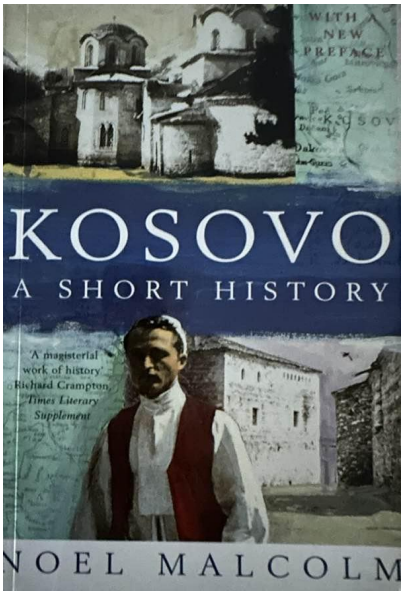
In this respect, the work of Sir Noel Malcolm is an extraordinary work which will be elaborated in the second episode of this cycle.

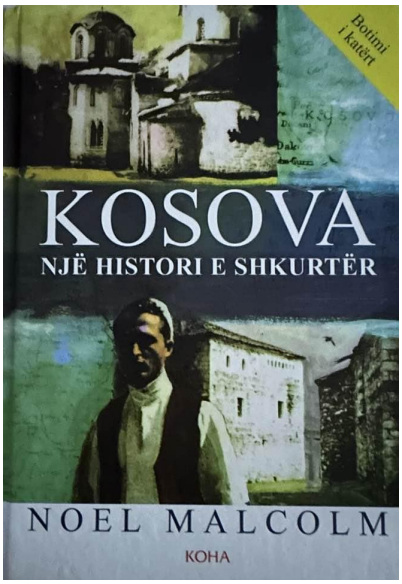
And this leads us to Prizren, to discuss the history of the most important event of the nineteenth century for Albanians, which is the League of Prizren of 1878.

End of First Episode

SECOND EPISODE

KOSOVA A SHORT HISTORY AND THE IMPACT THAT IT HAS HAD TO THE WESTERN DECISION MAKERS TO LIBERATE KOSOVA


WITH A NEW PREFACE
KOSOVO
A SHORT HISTORY
'A magisterial work of history' Richard Crampton, Times Literary Supplement
NOEL MALCOLM



"THE NEW YORK TIMES" NEWSPAPER

"*Kosova: A Short History* is a magisterial work of history, brilliantly researched and argued.
This book will inevitably be taken as an extremely valuable contribution to our understanding and knowledge of a contemporary crisis.… This book is the best guide available, ever, on the steps that should be taken to face a fatal catastrophe."

26.- Mal Berisha

Sir Noel Malcolm's scientific and journalistic activity has been presented by many prestigious international media outlets.
Undoubtedly, the Albanian media in Albania as well as in Kosova, have not ceased presenting his work.
It seems one can never talk too much about this illustrious figure who, with his work has done so much honour to the Albanian cause.

This is exactly why we went to Oxford University, to the premises of All Souls College, where Sir Noel Malcolm studies, works, writes, and produces his works, and we asked him this simple question: "How did your interest and zeal for the history of the Albanian nation arise?"

27. - Sir Noel Malcolm

I must say from the start that I apologize, as I am going to speak only in English.

The problem is that I cannot express my opinion fully in the Albanian language. I read a lot, but I rarely speak Albanian.

It's a long story. When I was a student at Cambridge, in the 1970s, I just got interested in the Balkan region of Europe. And I would go there in my summer vacations and travel. I liked walking in the mountains and there were beautiful landscapes there with beautiful mountains. This sort of travel, if you were a student with very little money, is wonderfully economical. I would walk in mountains and be invited into peoples' homes in mountain villages—wonderful hospitality. But, when you travel like that, you must speak the language. So, there were sort of language laboratories in Cambridge where you could just go and take a course on cassettes and just independently, if you had a few hours, you would sit there and study. So, on that basis I started to learn a new language every year. And then, in the summer I would go there for as long as I could to walk and travel and so on.

So, one year I learned modern Greek, one year Romanian, one-year Serbo-Croat, one year Turkish, also. And gradually I found I was sort of filling the map of the Balkans. But there was one language that I could not learn by that method because they had no course available. And that was Albanian. And I was intrigued by this sort of anomalous language and people that was more difficult to acquaint myself with. And finally, I find an old "Teach Yourself Albanian" book, in the university library and I started to learn it. Now, at that time, I could travel to Kosova, obviously, although my Serbian was better than my Albanian, and nobody expected me to speak Albanian when I was there. But I could not travel independently in communist Albania. That was obviously impossible. So, it was only after the end of communism in 1992 that I went to Albania for the first time, with a moderate knowledge of the language. But having worked seriously on Balkan history and culture this was the last piece of the jigsaw that I wanted to fill in. And so, I started reading more about Albanian history and my interest just developed from there.

28. - Bejtullah Destani

I met Sir Noel Malcolm for the first time in early 1994. It was at an anthropology conference at the University of London.
He was there and I had some photocopies, some letters of Edith Durham, that I had found in the National Archives of Great Britain, in Kew Gardens. It was at that moment that our collaboration began.

Noel invited us to the promotion of the book of *The Letters of Thomas Hobbes*.

But before I had met him, I can say that a friend of mine had met Noel Malcolm at the promotion of the book about Bosnia. My friend was from Kosova, and had been the Director of the Kosova Office, Mr. Isa Zymberi.

He asked Noel Malcolm, "Can you write a book about Kosova, a short history of Kosova?"

And that's exactly what happened!

29.- Isa Zymberi

I have met him when he was known as Noel Malcolm. He is now Sir Noel Malcolm, as he was knighted later. When I met him, I was told that he was a historian and a political journalist, and he speaks the Albanian language very well.

From the beginning, he has been a supporter of the Kosova issue and has participated in every activity that we have organized, but also in every roundtable or conference, he has expressed himself in our favour.

Later, as we know, he wrote the book, *Bosnia: A Short History*. This happened in 1994. Right after the publication of this book, I met him at one of the protests that we kept organizing regularly, in Trafalgar Square.

I said to Noel:

"What do you think, can you do the same for Kosova?"

After brief consideration, he replied:

"I find it very difficult because there is a mountain of papers written by Serbs, by Serbian historians, even though most of them are worthless. But to write the book, I would have to go through all this literature. It is very difficult."

I told him, "I believe you are one of those people who can overcome this difficulty," and we left it at that.

Three weeks later, he called me at my office and said:

"I have decided to write the book, but please don't make that public knowledge since I haven't told-anyone yet."

30. - Bejtullah Destani

In 1995, we as the first Albanian journalists, Nehat Islami and I, interviewed Noel Malcolm, for the newspapers *Bujku* and *Rilindja*, which were still published abroad. He asked that we not even mention the history of Kosova that he was writing, because he said:

"Serbs have plenty of ways to stop the work and cancel the contract with the publishing house".

And that is what happened: We did not mention it, not even once.

31.- Isa Zymberi

The book emerged in 1998. If the book about Bosnia was very important, it was published a bit late, because Bosnia at that time was almost destroyed, while the book that came out about Kosova was published at just the right time, when it was most needed, to encourage the international community to do something about Kosova.

32.- Dr. Melanie McDonagh

But it is a very good read and occasionally it's an entertaining read, and he dismantled so many preconceptions and misconceptions as he goes along.

For instance, that bit about medieval Kosova, before Prince Lazar, before the Battle of Kosova, that overturns several preconceptions and then in addressing the battle itself, he just as justice to the complexity of the whole thing and how it isn't clear cut, the different groups who engaged on either side. He has done great work simply in clearing away some of the absolutely based on assumptions of a lot of academics in the region. In the book on Bosnia, he dismantled the whole concept of the Bogomil church, which everybody had taken as Gospel, for generations before. And I was told by innumerable Bosnian politicians all about the Bogomils being very important in the creation of the Bosnian identity.

And Noel just dismantled that. So, he's got no fear in taking on accepted ideas and just seeing whether they're true and saying so.

33.- Sir Noel Malcolm

Well, the biggest impetus really was the political situation in Kosova and the fact that I became involved in the public debate and commentary on the situation in Yugoslavia long before then. I should just explain, I began my career as an academic at my university, Cambridge. I then became a commentator for the *Spectator* magazine, and then foreign editor of that magazine, and this was at the end of the 1980s when everything was happening in the former communist bloc. And because I knew Serbo-Croat, I was sort of following quite closely events in Yugoslavia. And when the war started in Bosnia, I wrote a lot about that. I realized that western policy on Bosnia was making mistakes because they just did not know, the policy makers, the politicians, the diplomats—they just didn't know what they were dealing with, and they were accepting what was basically propaganda claims from Belgrade.

For example, that Bosnia was invented country that Tito had made up on the map by drawing lines arbitrarily, when, in fact, it has historic borders, going back to the 17th century.

The claim that they were all really Serbs historically—which again, is ridiculous.

I was involved as a commentator and all sorts of more privately, what can I say, as an activist against this sort of Belgrade propaganda. And I realized that you could not blame the politicians for making these mistakes because they could not just go to a bookshop and find a book on the history of Bosnia, that would explain the realities. There was nothing available.

So, one day, I just thought, I will write a book myself.

And so, very quickly I wrote a history of Bosnia.

I say quickly, it took me one year, and that was published in 1994.

34.- Prof. David Abulafia

He became increasingly interested in the history of former Yugoslavia, which led him to write the book about Bosnia.

And I remember him coming to my college to give a fascinating talk, all those years ago, as the book on Bosnia was being prepared about the Bogomils, about the heretics, who in some accounts—there's a great deal of controversy about this—in the Middle Ages became the dominant force within Bosnian Christianity, obviously before the spread of Islam in Bosnia.

35.- Dr. Melanie McDonagh

Yes, it's hard to overstate Noel's contribution because at the beginning of the war in former Yugoslavia, people knew so little about the area and about the history. Misha Glenny wrote a book on the destruction of Yugoslavia at the start of the conflict in Slovenia and Croatia.

But there are no real specialists who wrote excessively about the region and Noel was somebody who was able to bring the fluency and skills of a journalist with the knowledge of a scholar and the unparalleled access of a linguist.

He was very familiar with the many of the politicians in Britain at the time, notably Margaret Thatcher, who was very sympathetic as you know to the situation of Kosovars and the Bosnians.

And for those people, they needed somebody they can trust; they needed an expert; they needed somebody who knew the region.

Noel know both the academic level and at the human and personal level because he spent so much time in the area, walking in the mountains, staying with ordinary people, ordinary families, in cities, in towns and villages throughout the former Yugoslavia and certainty in Albania and in Kosova. And he loved the people, it's fair to say, and had a great affection for the people that he met. This combination of somebody who's a very distinguished scholar, unparalleled linguist, and somebody with a human feel for the situation of the people of the time, was quite without parallel, I think anywhere else in British journalism.

So, his contribution was absolutely what was needed at the time.

36.- Sir Noel Malcolm

I'd like to think it had some impact then, on western policy making. But, when I was writing it, at the back of my mind always I had Kosova. Because although there were many specific differences between the two cases, Kosova and Bosnia, the fundamental similarity was this: You had political dispute, modern political disputes, where a lot of the key political claims were basically historical claims, and very similar propaganda lines about Kosova too, from the Belgrade Academy of Sciences, from biased historians, serving political interests. So, as soon as I finished writing *The History of Bosnia*, I thought my next task would be to write a history of Kosova.

37.- Prof. Lea Ypi

I began with this unconditional admiration for Noel as an academic. I read the book on Kosova, it made me understand many things about Kosova, about the fate of Kosova, its origins, how the Kosova issue should be approached, how the Albanian issue should be approached, in general. So, all those decision-makers, politicians, activists knew nothing about Kosova, knew even less than I did. They knew nothing about Albania's place in the world, about issues between Kosova, border problems, etc. They simply needed information.

And the fact that Noel has given that information, without cutting it in short, without simplifying, without trying to show, to give an ideological approach, that is, simply presenting his research, his sources, the way he interpreted the facts, for me this has become a very important model.

38.- Sir Noel Malcolm

And, for that I had more time. The Bosnian book I had to work fast over one year intensively, doing research, writing; for Kosova I thought I can do a more thorough job.

I spent three years, I went to many archives in the Vatican, Venice, Vienna, Paris, and so on. And I think it is a more thorough and a more scholarly book.

And that book I published in 1998, which was obviously before the war in Kosova.

Again, I like to think it had some effect on western policymakers when the war finally broke out in Kosova, and perhaps, I mean, they realized anyway that they had made terrible mistakes over Bosnia, early in the 1990s. But some of those mistakes were not repeated in the case of Kosova.

Intensively in the middle of the 1990s, I was working on the history of Kosova. That was the main task I gave myself for three years. And of course, for that, I had to read all available literature in Albanian on the history of Kosova, and many other things, too.

39.- Lutfi Dervishi

At that time, his first book came as a blessing, dedicated to the Albanian cause—*Kosova a Short History*. A book that, in fact brought to the light not simply the Albanian truths, but the historical truth about Albania-Serbia relations. It is a book that

dismantled for the first time on an unprecedented scale never seen before, the Serbian lie about Albanians and about Kosova.

A book that, according to reports of the time, diplomats of the calibre of Holbrook and Secretary Madeleine Albright herself, carried in their bags.

40- Dr. Daut Dauti

When I talk or think about Noel Malcolm, I often recall a photo that was published in the major newspapers here in London, in the British newspapers on the front pages, when the British forces were still in Macedonia, waiting to enter Kosova. It was a very interesting and very symbolic photo—a British soldier who was lying down and reading Noel Malcolm's book.

That is, before his unit entered Kosova, he was reading to learn about the people, about the country, where he was going.

At one time, there was absolutely no information about Kosova, or no objective information. The truth of the Albanians or of Kosova, which had been published in Great Britain, had primarily been pan-Slavic or pan-Greek. The Albanian question had been completely ignored, or even if it had been presented in the academic circles of Great Britain, it had been irrelevant, not only in the way how it was presented, but also in the assessments given by the academics.

41.- Sir Noel Malcolm

I do not feel responsibility for NATO bombing. A history book is a history book. It is not a sort of policy document for present conflicts. There were sorts of a campaign in the 1990s by sympathizers of Belgrade and Serb nationalist in this country who would go around public libraries putting stickers in copies of my book and books by other peoples I know, saying:

WARNING! THIS BOOK ENCOURAGES NATO BOMBING CAMPAIGNS.

And it really did not do that because it is a history book. And history is about the past.

So, I do not claim credit for that, but I think I would like to claim a little credit for removing some of the false assumptions, which might have limited western policy or might have sent it in a different direction. And as I said, what is what I tried to do in the case of Bosnia.

And yes, justifications for what Milosevic was doing were given to him by the Academy of Sciences, by historians, obviously by many sorts of more popular journalistic writers in Belgrade.

And I have tried to analyse in that book very carefully what is true and what is false, in the various claims made. There have been exaggerated claims historically by Albanians too, and where I think were exaggerated, I say so in the book. That is my duty as a historian.

42.- Dr. Arjan Gjoncaj

Sir Noel has offered a multi-dimensional contribution, I would say, for Albania, for our national issue.

And this is reflected in the contributions of his works, saying that not everything we know about the Battle of Kosova is true, based on documents, and he brings new documents increasing the role of Albanians in the Battle of Kosova.

43.- Prof. Jason Tomes

I think his work has been of very great importance, most clearly in the case of *A Short History of Kosova*, which came out in 1998, had significance beyond the purely historical, but I think a direct effect on British perception of the Kosova crisis. It is a book which is so clearly based on scrupulous archival research that it carried real weight in presenting British people with evidence of the long historic predominance of Albanians within Kosova, which I think to most British people, if the most British people never heard of that place, to be honest about that time. But if they had, they associated it with the Battle of Kosova.

44.- Sir Noel Malcolm

But it is true that most exaggerated claims came from the Serbian side. It is also true that most of history writing had come from Serbia, and this is not surprising. Belgrade had a university in 19th century, it had professors of history who were writing major works, some of which were translated into foreign languages. They influenced the interpretation of Western European historians. And all through the 20th century, if western specialists went to do doctoral research in Yugoslav history, typically they went to Belgrade. Very few even went to Zagreb. Nobody went to Prishtina.

45- Lord Charles Moore

Indeed, I remember that Noel was the first person who specifically explained to me what was going on with Milosevic at the end of the 1980s. And when Milosevic made that famous speech.

It was Noel that first explained to me the significance of Milosevic's speech about the Battle of Kosova and wrote about the anniversary in 1989. I really had not known about that at all, and I don't suppose most of our readers had, and he opened this subject to *The Spectator* readers and then to *The Telegraph* readers.

One of Noel's great qualities, part of his great genius is that he simply knows more about a subject that he is interested in than other people do. So, it was always very amusing to bring him together with other people who claim to be experts.

People living in this country, usually who claim to be experts on the region and the places, and he knew much, much more than they did, and I saw this again and again. So, he was extremely powerful in making the arguments and they continued, so they began, in a way, it was Romania and then, the sequence was then Milosevic and all of that, into the question of Bosnia, and from that into the question of Kosova and Albanian questions. And you could see that sequence coming through in *The Spectator* and then in *The Telegraph* and of course in all sorts of other forums.

46. - Bejtullah Destani

The extraordinary contribution to the aid of the Kosova War, and especially the period before the War, is extremely great, of which the public is not aware. In *The Telegraph* he was the Foreign Editor. There was an extraordinary debate with the Foreign Minister of the time, Douglas Hurd who was very pro-Serb in his political standing, and who supported the idea of Belgrade. Noel Malcolm had had a strong argument with him and finally convinced him to agree with the facts that he had submitted about the situation on the ground in Kosov, compared to what Douglas Hurd had suggested.

47.- Sir Noel Malcolm

So, they absorbed a sort of Serbian view and in many cases that was based on ultimately on nationalistic history, going back to the 19th century, though generally not much earlier than that.

Once you go to the archives, you check the documents, you find that much of this is simply based on misrepresentations. So that I was trying very much to deal with.

And just to give a sort of factually correct account of the history, was itself, by its very nature, to undo many of these claims that came from the Serbian side.

48.- Prof. Rexhep Ismajli

Malcolm's book was published at a moment in which he cleared away all this fog and clearly showed, from another source, not ours, because we were not believed, it came as a neutral voice, with a very clear language, with brilliant writing. It was a book that came from Britain, which showed where Kosova was, what it was, how it could be seen as a current entity or only as an entity that was invented by the Yugoslavia Federation, or that there was something else, like an earlier region.

He clearly showed that Kosova has its own logic of being an entity, regardless of having been ruled by this or that throughout its history. With this, he proved to the world, especially to the decision-making world, in high Western diplomacy, because his book was being read in those spheres. This book shows that Kosova has its own reason to exist, its history, as a federal unit, its involvement in the ongoing war, and the declaration of the peaceful movement of the Republic, etc. It also had a history of its own in support of this.

49.- John Hodgson,

Noel Malcolm published his history of Kosova, right on the eve of the war in Kosova. This is a huge historical work because Malcolm is one of our most distinguished historians. He created an image of Kosova and the identity of Kosova in the mind of the British readers. It means that Kosova had been heretofore an unknown country for us. Noel Malcolm brought that country to life and made it current in our culture. It means that it is a work of all the times, a work of great importance, that came out at a certain moment, exactly at the right moment.

50.- Dr. Rudina Jasini

For every foreigner who wants to know about the nature of the conflict that erupted in Kosova, I think, and always recommend Noel Malcolm's book, as a very good starting point to understand, why Kosova is where it is today?

In the academic world, the discussions that take place about this subject are often harsh.

So, you can have personalities and scholars of very high calibre on both sides of the spectrum, who debate, bringing arguments, thoughts, facts, that they have researched over the course of - years.

So, once enter that kind of intellectual debate, then you understand the true value of Sir Noel Malcolm's work.

51. – Prof. David Abulafia

Kosova which was emerging just as he just as he published his history of Kosova, this was emerging as another area where this coexistence had broken down quite dramatically, coexistence between Albanians and Serbs.

So, there was a sort of logical progression there, but at some point, he'd also become very interested in Albania to the extent he tells me that he began to teach himself Albanian and he taught himself out of books of Albanian grammar and so on.

52.- Dr. Daut Dauti

The impact has been great. For that reason, the publication of this book has even changed the opinion of British foreign policy towards the Albanian issue. It has also enriched Albanian historiography.

53.- Robert Wilton

Kosova has become my country. I have this honour.
When people ask me for recommendations, on how to understand Kosova, is there anything to read, I suggest: If you want to understand the background, of the controversies, as far as Kosova is concerned, read only the first 90 pages of Sir Noel. It's all there, in a super-scientific, objective way, without exaggeration, without melodrama.
Everything is there, his achievement in presenting the Kosova issue has never been surpassed.

And this is probably his greatest achievement that he has brought to the writing of the history of the Balkans, the scientific, international, first-rate standard. It is an essential service for academic standards in the Balkans as well.

54.- Dr. David Shankland

In my first academic position I was based at the British Institute of Archaeology in Ankara and as Sir Noel Malcolm was going in one of his tours to the Balkans, he decided to visit me, and introduce himself. I was absolutely delighted that he did so. And he brought with him, as a small gift, a copy of the *Short History*. And that's how I got to know him and his wonderful work.

55.- Sir Noel Malcolm

And talking about the Serbian Academy of Sciences, I had the strange honour of a conference they held in Belgrade on my book, and subsequently they published a volume of the presentations of the conference. I have a copy of this book. I read it when it appeared. I thought it was a sort of compliment to me that they would gather a team of their historians in order to attack me.

And I read it carefully, and I could not find single clear factual correction to what I had said in the book. There was one person who claimed up all my statistics are wrong about Ottoman Kosova in the late period, but that person made an elementary mistake which he was just taking statistics from the Vilajet of Kosova, which was not modern Kosova. It included half of Macedonia and I had always broken down from the Vilajet down to the Kaza level, to represent what would correspond to modern Kosova. So, there was one stupid mistake there. But still, as I say it was a strange kind of compliment to have a whole book attacking me.

56.- Dr. Edita Tahiri

I can say that for us, as the founders of the state of Kosova, Sir Noel Malcolm is a co-founder of the state of Kosova, because his book showed the truth of the history of Kosova, overthrowing the false nationalist theses of Serbia, bringing us to the world stage, as an issue that was little known from many sides.

57.- Michael Gunn

In terms of academic work, I must cite Sir Noel Malcolm. He is so well known that he would be the top man to go to and, in fact, his book *Kosova: A Short History*, which was published I think in 1998, I regarded as a seminal work and should be *de rigueur* for every student of Albanian history to read, even though it is about Kosova, it is actually about the Albanians.

58.- Edith Harxhi

Being specifically entrusted by the Albanian government with the recognition of Kosova in the world and with a direct commitment to assist in the recognition of Kosova by countries that had not yet recognized it, after its declaration of independence, I met with many foreign diplomats, personalities, foreign ministers, prime ministers, former prime ministers, and presidents around the world. As I lobbied for Albania and for the recognition of Kosova's independence, I presented them with the book *Kosova, A Short History* by Noel Malcolm.

I naturally thank Professor Malcolm because this has been an extraordinary service for Albanian diplomatic service, especially for the recognition of Kosova by foreign chancelleries and the understanding of its history by foreign chancelleries, particularly the Albanian drama throughout the centuries.

Of course, the question today would be: Are we Albanians brothers, on both sides of the border, and this question is being addressed to Professor Malcolm?

59.- Sir Noel Malcolm

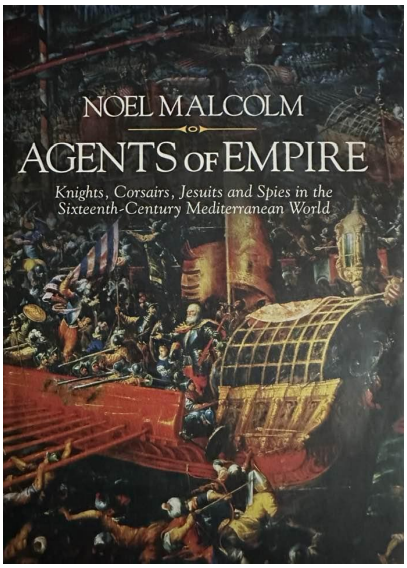
And, for much of the history, you cannot make a precise separation between Kosova and Northern Albania, or other areas where Albanians lived. So that drew me in much more strongly to the general history of the Albanians.

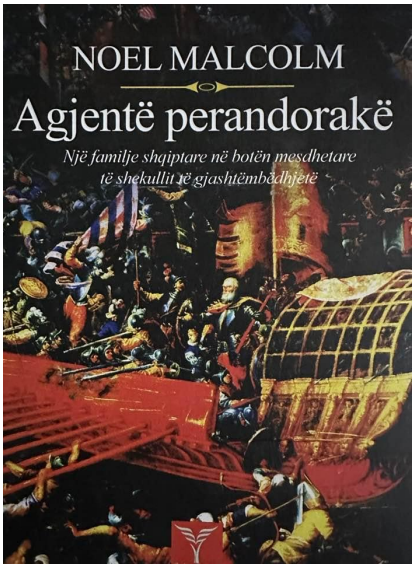
THIRD EPISODE

Part One

AGENTS OF EMPIRE & REBELS, BELIEVERS, SURVIVORS

"This is not the History of Albania – This is the History of Albanians"
Sir Noel Malcolm





"This is a remarkable book – remarkable for its erudition, its range, and its readability. It depicts in vivid detail a word in which frontiers are porous and shifting, and in which merchants, soldiers, corsairs, and the local agents of empire seize the opportunities for riches and advancement offered by more or less permanently unsettle conditions.

For all the detail, Noel Malcolm never forgets the wider picture and we are constantly given fresh insights, not only into well-known episodes such as the Battle of Lepanto, but also into overarching story of western relations with the Ottoman Empire. In my view the book is a masterpiece, which will open the eyes of readers to the intrinsic interest and importance of a historically neglected region of Europe within the framework of a relationship between cavillation which is as complex today as it was in the sixteen centuries".

Sir John Eliot, Regis Professor of History Emeritus, University of Oxford

60.- Mal Berisha

In May 2015, Sir Noel Malcolm, in the capacity of the President of the Anglo-Albanian Association, founded in 1912 by the English colonel Aubrey Herbert and the anthropologist Edith Durham, came as usual to the Albanian Embassy in London.
This time, he presented a special request in his very modest way, just like he is, but very important for the history of the Albanian people.

He wanted to introduce his next book for the first time, *Agents of Empire*.

Of course, he could do this in any important institution in his country.

But he chose the Albanian Embassy to give an even more specific meaning to the work he had written about us, the Albanians.

Naturally, this was a great honour for the Albanian Embassy in London and for our nation as well, indeed.

So, on June 2, 2015, the book promotion took place at the embassy. In fact, the conclusion of this book was:

"If someone wanted to engage in any kind of business with the Ottoman Empire, they should definitely know at least one Albanian."

61.- Sir Noel Malcolm

Like many things that one does, it happens partly by design and to a significant extent by pure chance and accident. The design element was as follows:

About 20 years ago I was reading a very interesting Italian treatise on the Ottoman Empire by Lazaro Soranzo, "L'Ottomanno" published in 1598, and he said at one point that there is this very important treatise on the Ottoman Empire in Europe that you should read. And two pages later he said: "And about the Albanians. If you want to know more about them, you must read that manuscript treatise by their compatriot, Lord Compatriota, Antonio Bruni."

I nearly fell off my chair at that point because I thought: Here is a text, a 16th-century treatise about Albanians, by an Albanian, that is completely unknown. Nobody has ever referred to this. It is just unknown. And if I could find it, it would be just the first known text about Albania by an Albanian.

So, I started hunting. It took about 16-17 years to find it. I found it, in the end more by chance than design and an awful deal of design goes into most of my cases.

It's in the Vatican library, so I rushed off and read it. It's a very interesting text, it's not very long. It's an Italian treatise. I thought I would publish it with a little introduction about the author.

That is where the problems began, because I knew nothing about this man, except his name, which is a very common, apparently, Italian name, Antonio Bruni, and on the title page it said that he was from Dolcinjo (Ulcinj in Montenegro, Ulqin for Albanians) which has always been an Albanian speaking town, is on the southern tip of Montenegro, very close to the Albanian border.

So, I started digging, metaphorically speaking. I found some more details about his family. Gradually, figure after figure emerged from total gloom, I just couldn't believe what I was uncovering.

So, just for example, his father turned out to be a Knight of Malta, who was talent spotted by the pope, was sent as an intelligence organizer to Dubrovnik. Was then made captain of the Papal flagship at the Battle of Lepanto. He served as captain of the Papal flagship in the Papal fleet for three campaigns. He was sent as an infantry commander to the Papal territory of Avignon. So, that was just the father. An uncle, a mother's brother became an archbishop, primate of all of Serbia, with dozens of bishops under him, went to the last session of the Council of Trent, played an absolutely crucial role in important matters of the last session of the Council of Trent, came back to his sea in what is now Montenegro, but covering large parts of modern Albania, and comes to a very sticky and tragic end, at the end of the Battle of Lepanto.

He is not actually killed by the Ottomans, but I won't spoil the story.

So, that's just an uncle.

Another uncle, an uncle by marriage. And this is where these two families interlock Bruni and Bruti, the fact the names are almost identical is a total coincidence. He was the chief diplomatic and commercial fix of Venice in this whole region of the Western Balkans. He was used to solving tricky problems, talking to local Ottoman pashas on the other side of the border, because these people were right on the frontier. These people are Albanian citizens but subjects of Venice. So, they are working, they're all Roman Catholics, they are working for the West, but right on this frontier zone. So, he was very important and as a grain trader, he kept Venice alive because he was producing, organizing in certain moments 9000 tons of grain a year to Venice, which was nearly a quarter of its yearly consumption, and without that Venice would have collapsed.

His son has the most extraordinary career, he goes to Istanbul as a teenager, to train as a dragoman professional interpreter. Pretty soon he realizes this is not the life of me, so he gets enlisted by the underground Spanish espionage network in Istanbul. Then he goes to Madrid, and he is given a very important task to accompany a secret diplomatic mission, sort of underground diplomatic mission, to negotiate a truce between Philip II of Spain and the Grand Vizier.

He does a bit of that, falls out with the Spanish diplomat, and then he goes off to Moldavia and becomes the Chief Minister of Moldavia, commander of its army, and pretty much runs the whole country, but this is a country *inside* the Ottoman Empire, so he is ultimately working in some sense for the Ottomans for the next 12 years, and then he comes to a particularly nasty end, so I won't spoil that one for you.

So those are just a few, there are many more. There are dragomans, and there is someone who almost stops the entire Habsburg-Ottoman war, that breaks out in 1593, is almost stopped by a member of this family. Then after three years another member of

this family is sent on a peace mission to Emperor Rudolf in Prague, to stop it again with less chances of success.

62.- Prof. David Abulafia

What Noel does in his book, which is tremendously important, is he brings the individual back into the story. I think that is absolutely vital. So, he's looking at these families, the Bruni and the Bruti, Albanian families so that gives it the Albanian focus and the way in which people of a rather sort of secondary importance in the history of the Mediterranean.

Nonetheless, their role as observers, their role in all sorts of key events, including the Battle of Lepanto, their connections with the princes of Moldova, their connections with indeed even with the court in Constantinople, the Ottoman Court in Constantinople, where one of their relatives rose to become Grand Vizier, because he had been taken away become a Muslim and so on and risen up the hierarchy in the Ottoman Empire.

So, it's that sort of sense of placing these individuals within the wider context and showing and putting Albania also into that wider context.

So, it's not, it's not a local history of Albania in the 17th century, but that's the really important point about it seems to me, I mean he writes about the history of the Albanians, not the history of a patch of territory and understanding the history of the Albanians. It's not for me to say, I mean the Albanians understand this better than I do, is understanding all sorts of aspects of the history. When you've mentioned Italy, Albanians in Italy, Albanians in later centuries in Alexandria in Egypt. Albanians spread right across the Ottoman Empire and playing this extraordinary role sometimes in the government of the Ottoman Empire.

63.- Prof. Jason Tomes

Albania in passed centuries, Albanians have been closely involved in crucial interactions between the Islamic World and Christian Europe. Sir Noel Malcolm's book *Agents of Empire* set in the 16th century, shows Albanians deeply involved on both sides, in what was then seen as a great struggle for control in the Mediterranean.

I think also that book brought to the forefront the fact that there were Albanians who were urban maritime, commercial, international, when maybe even among people within this country with some knowledge of the of Albania, they've been perhaps overly influenced by the ethnographical books produced in the late 19th – early 20th centuries in thinking of all Albanians, as being the clansmen in the mountains rather

than bearing in mind that they have been urban commercial and educated people who were travelled and been in contact with foreigners and a much wider economic and social realm.

64.- Sir Noel Malcolm

So, the book at one level is a set of biographies of these people because their family's story is extraordinary, these are individuals who all did interesting things.

I have been working for many years in a much broader way, on East-West relations in that period, relations between the Christian part of Europe and the Ottoman part. In practical terms, that covers the spectrum from sort of warfare piracy, things like that, through espionage to diplomacy and commerce. At then at other end of the spectrum, westerners working for the Ottomans. Just by chance, members of this family filled every single slot of that entire range.

So, I thought I would write a book which is a kind of selective biography, tell these stories because they are too good to lose and at the same time use that as a framework for something much bigger, which is a broader thematic account of all the important ways in which East and West were interacting at that time, and at the same time to try to build up a sort of geopolitical account of what's happening, the war around Battle of Lepanto, the outbreak of the Habsburg war. So, it is a rather difficult book to describe, there is more than one element or layer to it, but I hope at least that some parts of it work. Those are the main points of it, it just so happens that as I write about it, as I do research, I keep stumbling on more Albanians, they are everywhere! There are Albanian soldiers, cavalry officers in Italy, Albanians of course in the Ottoman administration in Istanbul. In fact, one reason why these people do well in Istanbul is that they have a more distant cousin who has become Grand Vizier. He is running the Ottoman Empire, he is an Albanian from a little village called Topojan, which I visited and walked around the fountain of Sinan Pasha Topojan. So, to give you an idea, the book ends at the end of the 16th century, this terrible Habsburg-Ottoman war has broken out, and by about 1600, it is devastating plots of Central Europe, Transylvania, Wallachia, so what is now Southern part of Romania. But at that moment where I finish the book, the chief commander in the field on the Ottoman side is called Jemînçi Hasan Pasha—he is an Albanian, probably the nephew of Sinan Pasha Topojani. So, the commander on the Albanian side is Albanian.

65.- Prof. Rexhep Ismajli

He truly shines as a draftsman, as a historical writer. He also shines in his new ways of writing history, with a very superb language, with a clear narrative.

He deals with Albanian families from Ulcinj who lived in different parts of the western world and then also in the east, in Istanbul, in Moldova and in other places.

And those families, as he says, with their abilities, these people have the ability to overcome, to go beyond their own cultural realm, to deal with the other, and to identify with the other, etc.

In other words, they were Catholics, but would also cross over to the Muslim side.

For example, in Istanbul, they made it possible to communicate between these hostile worlds.

And there were translators, dragomans. Dragomans were more than translators. Throughout the embassies, they had them as people who would also take notes, gather information, and mediate.

He also speaks, he makes a history of the whole of Europeans part, not only of Albanians.

So, of Venice as a superpower, partly of Spain, of Poland, of the Balkans, of the rest of Italy, with the Popes, and of the Ottoman Empire.

And in that realm, he also talks about the Albanian world, about the Albanian lands, what they are like, how life is there?

He speaks there, for example, not only about diplomats, traders, etc., he also talks about diplomats who sell wheat from Durrës.

It reminds me of *Mediterranean* by Fernand Braudel.

He is a well-known historian of the first part of the twentieth century, a Frenchman, who made a revolution against the waves of systematic historiography.

Malcolm goes from the micro-history of these families to the macro-history and gives us an overview of worlds that are in conflict, at war: the Western world, the Venetian world, other powerful countries, including Spain, with the Ottoman Empire.

66.- Robert Wilton

It is a parade of the ages, it is like those historiographical masterpieces of Europe, Runciman's *War of the Sicilian Vespers*.

I must say, when someone like Sir Noel, from the world's first rank in history writing, brings us something about the region, with an international standard of history writing, it is even more valuable.

Agents of Empire is fantastic in this regard, in presenting the story, not only of a family, since we immediately understand that we are reading not only a family, not only for

Bruni and Bruti, but for the entire society of the region, and not only for the Balkan region, but for the known world of that time, the European world of that time.

67.- Dr. Melanie McDonagh

Almost everybody who writes about the Balkans is a "specialist" on the Balkans. Noel is a specialist on the 17th century intellectual thought, and this is not exactly a side line, but this isn't his main area of academic interest. So, a lot of academics, a lot of scholars including those in Serbia went absolutely berserk at the notion that somebody who wasn't a specialist, whose sole subject wasn't the Balkans, was able to come in where they failed and write a broad authoritative and comprehensive account of the region, which none of them had done.

68.- Bejtullah Destani

In fact, Noel worked on this book as he was writing another book. He did not intend to write this book. According to Noel's testimony, he began writing a book entitled *Useful Enemies*, a book on the history of Islam from 1473 to 1720, the year Voltaire's book was published in French.

During the writing of this book, these *Agents of Empire* arose, the Bruni and Bruti families. In my opinion, from two families, from two persons initially and then the number of actors increased, there were so many opportunities to make a book to be translated into many languages, Spanish, Italian, Turkish, Arabic and Chinese.

Even in Chinese—and he did not understand at first—why in Chinese?

I told him about Albania's relations with China. This has helped because otherwise it would not have been published. I think that there are over 20,000 Chinese who speak Albanian. This had some kind of influence.

There was a review that I read in a Harvard academic journal. It was perfect. According to the review about *Agents of Empire*, "He has returned Albania to the map of Europe, where it did not exist at all." If the Albanian political establishment had the opportunity to use this book for the promotion of the country, it would be a fantastic thing. But unfortunately, this did not happen.

69.- Alda Bardhyli

Here at the National Book and Reading Centre, we have almost the entire collection of Noel Malcolm's books. We had the privilege of meeting him and participating in the recognition bestowed upon him by the Academy of Sciences of Albania.

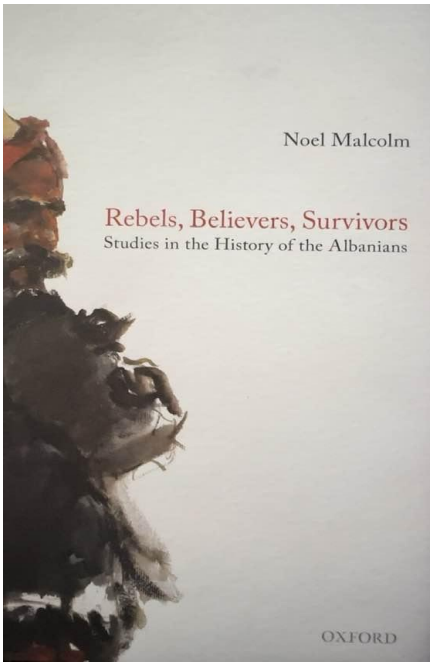
Noel Malcolm's books serve as captivating invitations to all foreigners, and anyone interested in delving into the history of Albania and Kosova. However, it goes beyond that. His works are for all who want to know the history of our region, our Balkans, and the crucial role played by Albanians in various historical processes and the region's development.

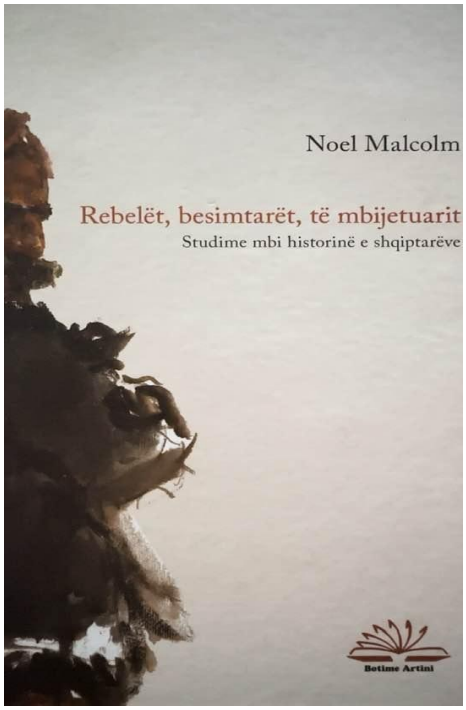
Noel Malcolm is regarded by us as the most significant historian due to the facts that his works have explored subjects that our own Albanian history has not touched upon. In a way, his approach sheds light on the European perspective of Albanians, who have long been part of Europe.

Episode Three

Part Two

ALBANIANS - Rebels, believers, survivors





"**...**This is not only a landmark publication for readers interested in south – east European history. It also engages with many broader issues, including religious conversion, 'crypto – Christianity' among Muslims, methods of enslavement within the Ottoman Empire, and the nature of modern myth-making about national identity…"

70.- Mal Berisha

In 2020, Sir Noel Malcolm released another book that presents a comprehensive and realistic perspective on the history of our land. According to Sir Noel Malcolm, the history of Albanian lands remains relatively unknown and understudied due to neglect and isolation during the era of communism.

He highlights that Albanian lands have a rich history of interaction with other regions. The book comprises 12 studies covering various intriguing Albanian topics from the fifteenth century to the debunking of the Serbian myth surrounding "the Great Exodus." These studies also explore the intertwined relationship between international politics, the meeting point of Christianity and Islam, and the issues of identity.

Sir Noel Malcolm demonstrates how Albanian lands have historically been a critical point of convergence between Christianity and Islam. They served as a passage connecting Venice to the Ottoman Balkans, attracted the interest of the Habsburgs, and became a centre of competition for the powerful neighbouring nations.

This book introduces significant contributions to Albanian historiography, which will be discussed further in the third episode of the documentary series "Gratitude," dedicated to this exceptional historian of our time.

71.- Sir Noel Malcolm

It is a collection of my essays on different Albanian topics, historical topics. The first essay was published 25 years ago, so in that sense you could say I've been working on it for 25 years.

But it was only after I had published in different places journals, collected volumes, odd studies on different subjects. It was only after I published some 7, 8, 9, that a very good friend Bejtullah Destani, who is himself a wonderful scholar of Albanian history of all kinds, and a tremendous expert on the archives and the documentation, that he suggested to me: "Why don't you collect your essays and publish them as a book?"

And when he first suggested that, I thought that it was a nice idea, but would be rather short because I need to wait some more years, do some more research and writing, and see what I can add!

And I also knew that the publishers generally today, are not happy with collections that just present things already published, not if it is a one hundred percent material like that. They want new material, for e new book. They wanted to interest their readers. And I thought, I have some topics where I want to write things about, and might come a quite long, longer than a normal article, in an academic journal, longer than something like I might give in a conference paper that might be published, and those things are usually 10 to 20 pages. And I had some topics I wanted to explore at the great length. So, I thought, well, I will give myself time, I will explore these subjects, and I will have the luxury of writing something as long as I wanted, it could be that length, or it could be much longer. Because now, I can put all things together in a book, and the more new material I have, the better. So that is what happened. So the older studies, published before, some of those were sort of by-products of my research on the history of Kosova, a lecture I gave on Pjetër Bogdani, and his famous book, which was actually my inaugural lecture when I was made a foreign member of the Academy of Kosova, a long article on the so-called Great Exodus of the Serbs from Kosova in 1690, an essay on crypto-Christianity, the so-called Laraman, crypto-Christians of Kosova. These have been published before—also in an article on the Kelmendi, on the early history of this *fis*, which is one of the most prominent of all the clans (if one can call them that) of the Malesia. So those I gathered together, but the new ones included a study of pilgrim descriptions of 15th-century Albania, pilgrims going from Venice to Jerusalem. Sometimes they stopped at Durres, and their accounts not been really noticed before, I mean perhaps because of the two most important, one is in Dutch and one is in old

Czech, and old Czech is not an easy language, to read, it is very different from the modern Czech. So that interested me. I had collected a lot of material about Albanians in the hands of the inquisition in the 16th, 17th, 18th centuries.

I have been working for other reasons on inquisition archives in Italy, Malta, and Spain. but I thought there were something very special because the inquisition would ask people about their personal history, and it would record in detail what they said. Most of these cases involve people who had converted to Islam at some point in their life. And now they were in Christian territory. Some of them were captured as slaves, held in Naples or Venice, and they wanted to come back to Christianity, and the Inquisition had to process them because they had committed a terrible sin by apostatizing and converting into Islam.

So, there were these detailed questions, and sometimes quite detailed answers about their early life. And I thought this was extraordinary because, from that period, it is so rare to have ordinary Albanians describing their life story. It is exceptional. We know very little about the personal life of anybody in that period. We know about Skanderbeg and some members of his family. We know about a few priests who wrote a lot to Rome, like Pjetër Bogdani and his family, we have his personal correspondence. But generally, for ordinary people, peasants, fishermen, villagers, we have nothing. But here are sometimes quite detailed accounts and even detailed accounts by Albanian women from this period. And that is really for a historian that is gold dust, that is so rare and so special. So, I gathered those, and that made quite a long chapter. But the biggest chapter was on Ali Pasha of Tepelena.

And there I have done a lot of work. I tried to read all the manuscript evidence in all the archives in England. Because the British had many connections with him during the Napoleonic War. He was very important for British strategy, and of course he was important for French strategy, and I spent time in the French diplomatic archives and the consular archives.

So, when I wrote that, to my surprise, it came out as almost a short book, about 150 pages. But I thought, I will put it in my book of essays. It is a long essay. But it will go in that book.

And finally, I found a very interesting manuscript in a small archive in Italy, which was the autobiography of quite of a young man written in late 19 century, in Shkodra. He writes it in Italian, but it is describing his life as a child and as a student in Shkodra, and he wanted to become a Catholic priest. He was rejected, but with vivid descriptions of ordinary life there, and nobody had seen this before. It was just sitting in this archive.

So, I wrote quite a long chapter on that. I called it the first Albanian autobiography. I believe it is the first surviving autobiography written by an Albanian in Albania. So that

was the new material and altogether it may reasonably substantially book, and it runs from the 15th century to the 20th.

72. - Prof. Neritan Ceka

Noel Malcolm's book *Rebels, Believers, and Survivors* in a way sums up his entire vision of Albania's history, even more than that.

From this book, which is dedicated to a great personality of the Albanian culture, the late Robert Elsie, I want to highlight at least four issues that have impressed me in the very construction of the structure of this book.

There is a view that starts from the western documents, especially from the archives of Venice, then from the Ottoman documents and a quite new one by Noel Malcolm.

It starts with the impressions that the pilgrims who crossed the Albanian coast had, once upon a time stationed somewhere in one of the ports of Albania of the 15th century.

For the borders of Albania, which according to these pilgrims start from the Bay of Kotor, from Budva, where the pilgrims see Albanians with their customs, hear the Albanian language, and this clearly shows that at least in the northern direction, but in the south as well, because opposite of Corfu, everywhere the pilgrims looked they saw Albanians and heard the Albanian language.

From the middle of the 15th century when these sources emerged, until the establishment of Albania’s borders, we have had a significant contraction of the Albanian nation.

So, in the eyes of the pilgrims, Albania is part of the western world, where the castles were still preserved up to the tops of the stacks.

One of those most interesting things which came to us indirectly but later, in Durres there was a Knight's Gate because on the gate there was a sculpture of a knight on a bronze horse, holding a letter in his hand, on which was written:

"Here is the way."

This may be taken to be the Via Egnatia, because it was the earthly Gate.

But Noel Malcolm very wisely determined that this knight is none other than Constantine the Great, who shows the Way of Christ.

This also explains the fact that the sculpture was preserved throughout the 15th century up until the Turkish invasion took place.

Because, according to Christian ideology, Constantine the Great was simultaneously one of the founders of Christianity.

73.- Lord Stuart Peach

I would like to pay tribute, to Sir Noel Malcolm, one of the leading experts on the Albanian History. I read many of his books. His history writing and his journalism, contribute both to understanding Albania and Albanians, and the region, and more globally.

His latest book is called *Rebels, Believers, Survivors: studies in the History of the Albanians*. It is a fascinating collection of articles which highlight Albania's historical role as a meeting point, a crossing point, for different cultures, religions, and peoples.

74.- Bejtullah Destani

The last book, the story of the *Rebels*, with articles written by Noel Malcolm, is about Ernesto Cozzi, who was the first Nuncio apostólico of the Vatican to Albania and an extraordinary erudite, who left several unpublished diaries.

Noel did find a large part of those articles as manuscripts in a church near Milan. As a priest and as a very remarkable anthropologist, [Cozzi] helped the Albanian people immensely in the areas where he lived.

As a simple priest, he also did some practical things. He had helped them with water supply, in a village. He helped people who did not have basic things. As the first Nuncio apostólico of the Vatican in Albania, he made an extraordinary contribution. He lost his life tragically.

It is really a very interesting article. Then there is an article about the League of Prizren that deals with the British attitude towards the League of Prizren.
There is another article about Ali Pasha, a very long article.
There is another article about the first biographer, who wrote the first biography and autobiography, in Italian. He was an Albanian from Shkodra. He did find the manuscript in Trento. He continued to go to Trento and saw the manuscript, and he was the first to write about this person.
His surname was Tusha, a merchant, he wrote the first autobiography, in the Italian language. It is still the first unpublished manuscript.

This collection of Noel Malcolm's articles shows that there is a deep continuity for the clarification and recognition of Albanian historiography. And he has always insisted that these should be reproduced, or that articles should be written about themes which are completely unknown.
According to Noel, after Skanderbeg, Ali Pasha is the main figure of Albania, who has been ignored for many years by Albanian historiography.
According to Noel Malcolm's articles, Ali Pasha was an extremely important figure.
That's why Albania was mentioned, as there were many travellers who travelled, honoured Albania, wrote about the most beautiful things, and about Albanian history, and culture, when Ali Pasha was in power.

75.- Prof. David Abulafia

I'm aware that there is a great deal of extremely serious, extremely original research, which was also true in *Agents of Empire*, where he tracked down some really very important manuscripts that nobody had studied.

It's, I would say, you have to have that "nose" for finding the material. Some people just have that. I would say it's a sort of instinct. One can go into an archive or library and you just you somehow you begin to realize that if you follow a particular track you're probably going to come up with something really interesting, and he has that sort of gift.

And there's a lot of material, for instance about Ali Pasha, and you think of Ali Pasha. His name keeps coming up in Dumas' *Count of Monte Cristo*, and so on, and so a lot of material about him and the Napoleonic Wars, which is obviously a very important issue which he has reinterpreted. So, I think you know that, again, it's another major contribution.

76.- Sir Noel Malcolm

This book is not essential to the history of Albania. It is not a contribution so much to the history of Albania, but it's a contribution to the history of Albanians. And that I thought it was something worth doing because they had not been looked at, in this way before.

All right! I do thank you for the questions and for the fact that you have come here, to England. It is a lot of work for you, to come to visit here, in Oxford.

Thank you for this interview, and all the best with the other interviews.

End of third episode

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF THE INTERVIEWEES

Mrs. Alda Bardhyli, Director of the National Book and Reading Centre

Alda Bardhyli is the Director of the National Book and Reading Centre. She is known as a researcher of literature and publicist.

She has studied literature at the University of Tirana. Since 2000, she has worked as a cultural journalist, and then as an editor in well-known newspapers of the time such as *Albania*, *Dita*, *Shqip*.

Bardhyli has contributed to the field of publishing as the head of the "Saras" Publishing House. She has the merit of bringing several important authors of contemporary literature into the Albanian language, as well as encouraging a cultural debate with a focus on the book as the organizer of several literary tables.

Alda Dizdari Albanian – British violinist, England

Alda Dizdari, now a British citizen, is an artist born in Albania to two musician parents: the very popular Albanian composer Limoz Dizdari and the violinist Adriana Dizdari. She left her native Albania at a young age to pursue her career in music. She studied in Romania and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Bucharest. She then completed her master's at the University of Illinois in the USA and continued her advanced studies in London at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with David Takeno, where she also enjoyed the prestigious Leverhulme String Scholarship for two years. She is recognized as one of the most distinguished violinists in Great Britain in terms of the execution of the violin work of the English composer Edward Elgar.

Dr. Arjan Gjonça, London School of Economics

Dr. Arjan Gjonça is an Associate Professor of Demography at the Department of International Development. He holds an MSc and a PhD in Demography from LSE and continues to work at LSE as a full member of academic staff. His teaching focuses on demographic methods and on global population health. His research interests and publications focus on health and mortality in developing countries. His research covers the demography of the Balkans (with particular focus on Albania), and health transition in developing and transitional societies.

Bejtullah Destani, Albanian – British scholar and diplomat

Bejtullah Destani is a scholar, diplomat, Founder and President of Centre for Albanian Studies, London. Destani is an Albanian-British researcher.
He completed his studies in Political Science in Belgrade. In 1986, he published his first book in Belgrade, *Selected Bibliography of Books on Albania 1850-1984*. Due to the situation in his native Kosova, in 1991 he immigrated to London.

Destani has dedicated his life to Albanian studies, in particular researching British-Albanian cultural relations, and has made important discoveries about Albanian history, in British, German, Austrian, Italian, Turkish and other libraries and archives.

In October 2008, he was appointed First Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Kosova, newly opened in London, and in November 2009, he was appointed Minister Counsellor. Then he was assigned to the same position at the Embassy of the Republic of Kosova in Rome, for two terms with interruptions.

He is the founder of the Centre for Albanian Studies in London.

He has published an unusual list of books about the history of Albanians in general and Kosova in particular.

Dr. Daut Dauti, Albanian – British historian and journalist

Dr. Daut Dauti is a historian, journalist, and novelist. He began working as a journalist while studying law at the University of Prishtina. In 1993, he became a London-based correspondent for *Zëri* and various Albanian newspapers. He post-graduated in European Union (EU) Politics and Economy at West London University (former Thames Valley University), and obtained his PhD at the University of Leeds, School of History. He has published several books. His core interest is the history and politics of Anglo-Albanian relations, the Balkans, and the Ottoman Empire. He is author of *Britain, the Albanian Question and the fall of the Ottoman Empire 1876-1914* and *Lufta për Trepçën* (The War for Trepça).

Dr. Edita Tahiri, former Foreign Minister of Kosova

Dr. Edita Tahiri is a leader of the independence of Kosova, the former deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs and peace negotiator. She was also minister for dialogue, minister of public administration and member of parliament in five terms. She was the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kosova for ten years in difficult time of liberation and independence of Kosova (1991–2000). She is a signer of the Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Kosova, on 17 February 2008. She is Chair of the Regional Women's Lobby in Southeastern Europe (RWLSEE). She is member of the Women Waging Peace Network. and member of the Mediterranean Women's Mediators Network.

Edith Harxhi, Former vice Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Edith Harxhi is the Executive Director of the Albanian Policy Centre, a think tank that deals with policy advice, analysis and research in Albania, the Balkans, security, and foreign policy. She served as the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Albania, 2005 - 2013

Ms. Harxhi served for many years as a Special Envoy of the Albanian Government for the recognition of Kosova's Independence, where she visited many world capitals and international organizations lobbying for Kosova's independence.

Ms. Harxhi worked with the United Nations and served as an advisor to the Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Mission in Kosova, where she covered security and justice as well as minorities and gender affairs.

Ms. Harxhi received a master's degree with Honours in Political Science from the University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom.

Prof. David Abulafia, Professor Emeritus, University of Cambridge, England

David Abulafia, is an English historian with a particular interest in Italy, Spain and the rest of the Mediterranean during the Middle Ages and Renaissance. He spent most of his career at the University of Cambridge, rising to become a professor at the age of 50. He is a Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. He was Chairman of the History Faculty at Cambridge University, 2003-5, and was elected a member of the governing Council of Cambridge University in 2008. Professor Abulafia is author of more than a dozen of books on Mediterranean history.

Dr. David Shankland, Director of the Royal Anthropological Institute, London

Dr David Shankland is the Director of the Royal Anthropological Institute. He is trained in Social Anthropology at the University of Edinburgh, then moved to Cambridge for his doctoral studies, during which he conducted field work in Anatolia, looking at questions of social change, politics, and religion. In 1995, David took up a lectureship at the University of Wales Lampeter, thereafter, moving to the University of Bristol in 2003. He has played a leading role in many anthropological institutions, being the co-organizer of the European Association of Social Anthropologists conference at Bristol, the Chair of the ASA conference Anthropological and Archaeological Imaginations: past, present, and future, and in 2009 the President of the Anthropology and Archaeology Section of the British Science Association.

Harry Eyres, Newsweek magazine, London

Harry Eyres (born 1958) is a British journalist, writer and poet.
Eyres was educated at Eton College, Trinity College, Cambridge. He has the degree "De Estudios Hispanicos" from the University of Barcelona and a master's degree in Environmental Assessment, from the London School of Economics (LSE).
He was poetry editor at the Daily Express from 1996 to 2001. Before taking up writings, at his beginnings in the 1980s, he was a young expert in the department of Christie's wines, working under the tutelage of wine critic Michael Broadbent.
From 2004 to 2015, Eyres wrote a weekly column for The Financial Times. He gives theatre lessons in London, for a consortium of American universities.
Eyres is the author of Horace and I: Life Lessons from an Ancient Poet (2013), "A Beginner's Guide to Plato's Republic" (2001),

Isa Zymberi, Albanian – British writer, lecturer, and translator.

Isa Zymberi is a connoisseur of the English language and a teacher and author of texts in that language. He is also an Albanian language teacher. For this reason, he has used these skills for the reciprocal teaching of the speakers of these two languages. His book *Albanian Without a Teacher* has long been known as a method for learning Albanian. Many Englishmen, including Sir Noel Malcolm, have used his Albanian language method to learn Albanian.

He was also the director of the Kosova Information Office for Great Britain, known as QIK, in the period before the war and before the declaration of independence of Kosova, under the leadership of the government-in-asylum of Dr. Bujar Bukoshi, under the leadership of President Ibrahim Rugova. He has special merits for the internationalization of the Kosova issue in Great Britain and beyond.

Prof. Jason Hunter Toms, lecturer and writer, Oxford University, England

Prof. Jason Tomes is a renowned scholar of history and politics at Oxford and Boston universities. He has a rich CV with publications, including studies related to Albania and our region. One of the most popular books in Albania is *King Zog: self-made monarch of Albania*. He has also been an editor in several other publications related to Albania, as well as a participant in several conferences in Tirana.
The Institute of History is pleased to be part of the team of speakers at the November 2022 scientific conference on the 100th anniversary of relations between Albania and Great Britain.

John Hodgson, translator of Ismail Kadare's books, London

John Hodgson, born in 1951, taught at the Universities of Pristina and Tirana after studying English literature at Cambridge and Newcastle.
He has worked as a translator and interpreter at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague. He has translated five novels by Ismail Kadare, including *The Traitor's Niche*, and several works by Fatos Lubonja, including *Second Sentence* and *The False Apocalypse*.
He is an active member of the Anglo–Albanian Association based in in London.

Lea Ypi, Professor in Political Theory at the London School of Economics and Political Science, London

Lea Ypi is Professor in Political Theory at the London School of Economics and Political Science and an Honorary Professor in Philosophy at the Australian National University.

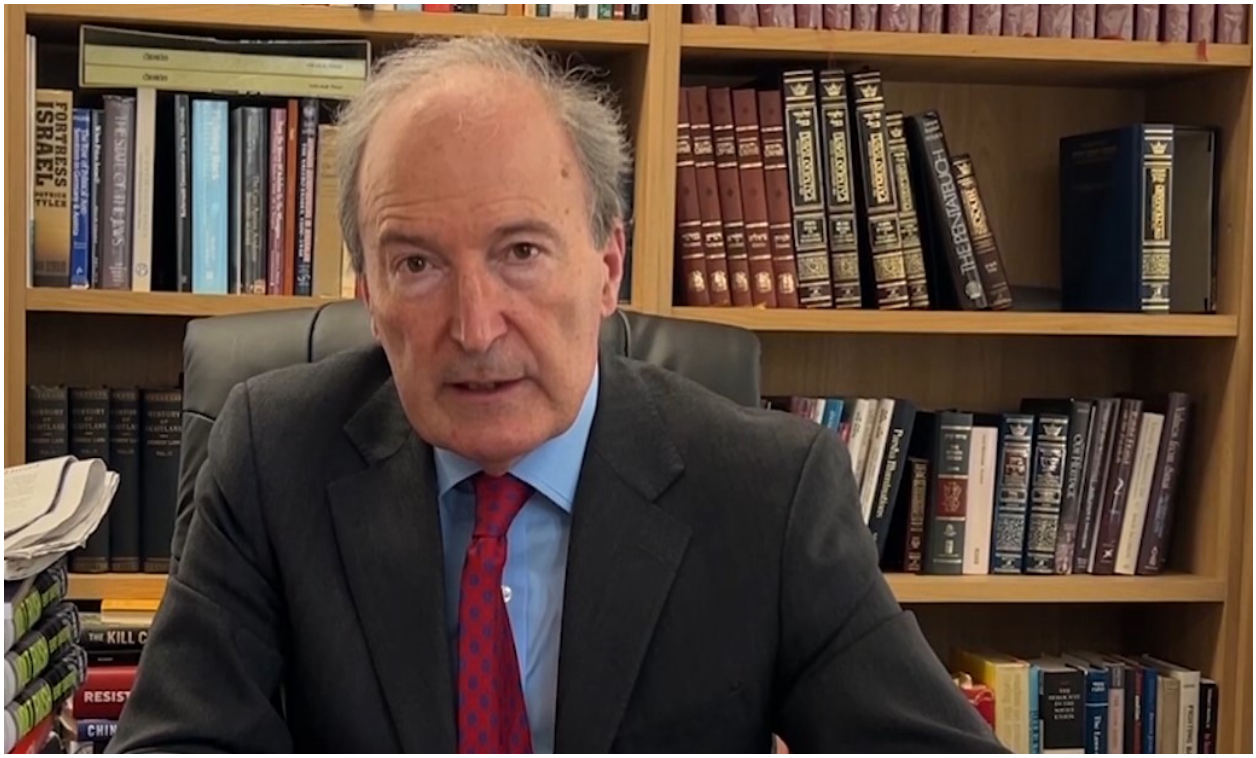
A native of Albania, she has degrees in Philosophy and Literature from the University of Rome La Sapienza, a PhD from the European University Institute and was a Post-Doctoral Prize Research Fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford University.

She is the author of *Global Justice and Avant-Garde Political Agency, The Meaning of Partisanship* (with Jonathan White), and *The Architectonic of Reason,* all published by Oxford University Press.

Her latest book, *Free*, published by Penguin Press is translated into more than twenty-five languages.

Her academic work has been recognized with the British Academy Prize for Excellence in Political Science and a Leverhulme Prize for Outstanding Research Achievement.

Lord Charles Moore, Baron Moore of Etchingham, House of Lords, London.



Charles Hilary Moore, Baron Moore of Etchingham (born 31 October 1956) is an English journalist and a former editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Spectator* and *The Sunday Telegraph*.

He is known for writing the authorized biography of Margaret Thatcher, published in three volumes (2013, 2016 and 2019).

Moore studied at Trinity College, Cambridge, at the same time with Noel Malcolm, at Eton College.

In 1979 he joined *The Daily Telegraph* as a political correspondent.

Two years after joining *The Spectator* as a political columnist, Moore became the magazine's editor in 1984, remaining there until 1990.

While in journalism, Baron Moore hired a young journalist named Boris Johnson at *The Spectator*, who succeeded him as editor of *The Spectator* and went on to become Mayor of London, British Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Baron Charles Moor of Etchingham is Member of the House of Lords from 13 of October 2020.

Lutfi Dervishi, researcher, journalist, Tirana

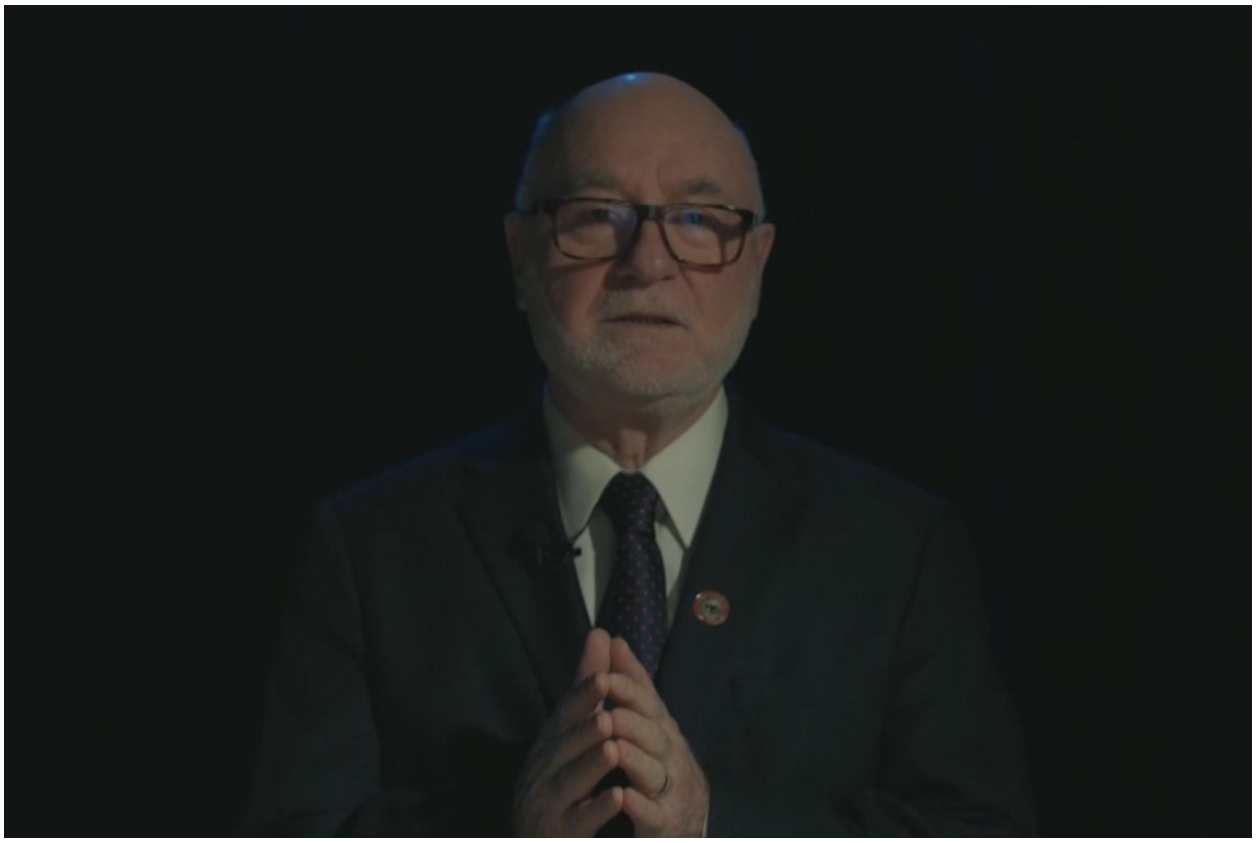
Lutfi Dervishi is an experienced journalist, editor, trainer, and lecturer of journalism. He is the founder and trainer at the Albania Centre for Quality Journalism. With extensive expertise in the media, Mr. Dervishi has made significant contributions to media development.

He served as the Executive Director of Transparency International Albania from 2008 to 2013. Additionally, he has worked as a political commentator for various television networks and international radio stations such as BBC, RFI, and RFE. Mr. Dervishi's insightful perspectives and analysis have made him a well-known figure in Albania.

Mr. Dervishi has participated in numerous seminars and training sessions both domestically and internationally, focusing on media, media literacy, information, internet, elections, regional cooperation, conflict resolution, and civil society establishment.

Fluent in English, Lutfi Dervishi is a respected figure in the field of journalism and media in Albania, known for his expertise, professionalism, and dedication to promoting transparency.

Mal Berisha, scholar, former Ambassador of Albania to the St. James's Court, London.



Mal Berisha was born in Tropojë in 1952. He graduated from the Academy of Arts of Albania in 1975. He joined the diplomatic service of Albania as a Consul and later as the General Consul of Albania to Istanbul, 1992–1997. Later he joined the United Nations Mission in Kosova, UNMIK from 2000 to 2009, continuing to work at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania until February 2012 until November 2015, when he started to serve as the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Albania to the United Kingdom of Great Britain, Northern Ireland, and Ireland (2012 – 2015). He is author of several books. Currently he is engaged in producing a series of documentary films dedicated to Anglo–American scholars who dedicated their studies to Albania and the Albanians.

Dr. Melanie McDonagh, English journalist, The Spectator, London

Dr. Melanie McDonagh is a well-known British journalist. She has studied at the New Hall, Cambridge History (undergraduate), Gonville & Caius, University of Cambridge – History (PhD). She has worked for *The Daily Telegraph*, and *Sunday Times*. She has written numerous articles in various British newspapers and magazines. She has been a strong voice in support of Albanians of Kosova, who were suffering under the Serbian Miloseviç regime, against the cruelty exercised against them. Currently she writes at *The Spectator* magazine. She has travelled several times to Albania and Kosova and has authored articles of high interest.

Michael Gunn, British artist, historian writer, London

Michael J. Gunn is a member of the executive committee of the Anglo Albanian Association in London (AAA). He is a writer and historian who has devoted many years to the social anthropology of the medieval, renaissance, and post-renaissance periods in Europe and elsewhere, with particular emphasis on the creation, development, and history of tribal-based systems. The book *Tribes and Albanian Families of the North* is the product of more than thirty years of research on its little-known topic, tribes and great Albanian families. His extensive research has given him recognition from Albanian historians and researchers. He is from the mountains of the Northern Highlands of Scotland, where he is well known as a prominent member and swordsman of the Gunn Clan.

Professor Neritan Ceka, historian, archaeologist

Prof. Neritan Ceka studied at the History-Philology faculty of the University of Tirana and graduated in 1962. He followed the legacy of his father, the first Albanian archaeologist, Hasan Ceka, becoming one of the most prominent archaeologists in Albania. He has the merit of discovering many archaeological sites, especially that of Bylis, as well as excavations and other discoveries. He is known for his published works on archaeology and Albanian history. He holds a succession of titles as high as Grand Master.

Professor Emeritus, Rexhep Ismajli, Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosova

He was born in Presheva in 1947. He finished his language and literature studies in Pristina in 1971. In the years 1971-1973 he specialized in linguistics at the *Institute de linguistique générale* et appliqué "René Descartes" (Sorbonne), Paris. In 2002 he was elected a member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts based in Salzburg. He is an honorary member of the Academy of Sciences of Albania. In October 2002, he was elected President of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosova. In 2005, he was re-elected Chairman of ASHAK. In the 2008-2011 mandate, the Assembly of the Republic of Kosova elected him Chairman of the National Science Council. He has been alongside Dr. Ibrahim Rugova in his efforts for the liberation and independence of Kosova.

Robert Archibald Wilton, British – Kosovar writer, diplomat, and scholar

Robert Wilton (born 22 February 1973) is a British-Kosovan writer. He has spent much of his life in the Balkans, including as an advisor to the prime minister of Kosova and as a Deputy Ambassador for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. As a writer he is known for his *Comptrollerate-General* series of historical novels, for the first of which he was awarded the Historical Writers' Association Crown.

In 2012 Wilton was awarded the Historical Writers' Association/Goldsboro Books Crown for best debut historical novel for *The Emperor's Gold*.

Dr. Rudina Jasini, Albanian – British lawyer, Faculty of Law, Oxford University, England

Rudina Jasini has completed studies in Criminology and Criminal Justice as a Weidenfeld Scholar in 2009. Prior to her time at Oxford, Rudina worked as an attorney for the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

She has also worked with the legal team providing representation and assistance to victims of the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia.

Rudina holds a PHD in Law and an MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Oxford, an LLM in International Legal Studies from Georgetown University Law Center and a BA in Law from the University of Tirana.

At present, Rudina is a researcher specializing in international criminal law and human rights law at the Faculty of Law, University of Oxford.

Previously, Rudina was appointed as a Postdoctoral Global Fellow at New York University Center for Human Rights and Global Justice. She has also held appointments as a visiting scholar at Harvard Law School, New York Law School, and the Max Planck Institute for Foreign Affairs.

Lord Stuart Peach, Baron Peach, Air chief Marshall

Air Chief Marshal Lord Stuart William Peach, Baron Peach was born on February 22, 1956. He is a British retired senior Royal Air Force officer. He was deployed as NATO Air Commander (Forward) in Kosova in 2000. He went on to be Chief of Defence Intelligence in 2006, Chief of Joint Operations in 2009 and the first Commander of Joint Forces Command in December 2011.

He succeeded General Petr Pavel as Chairman of the NATO Military Committee on 29 June 2018, serving as such until his retirement from NATO in June 2021.

Lord Peach is a special envoy of the British Prime Minister to the Balkans

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